

**CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

August 16, 2006

CALL TO ORDER: 4:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Mayor Michael L. Montandon
Mayor Pro Tempore William E. Robinson
Councilwoman Stephanie S. Smith
Councilman Shari Buck
Councilman Robert L. Eliason

STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Gregory Rose
Assistant City Manager Sam Chambers
Assistant City Manager Maryann Ustick
Chief Deputy City Attorney Carie Torrence
Chief Deputy City Clerk Anita Sheldon
Communications Director Brenda Johnson
Economic Development Director Mike Majewski
Fire Chief Al Gillespie
Parks & Recreation Director Mike Henley
Planning and Zoning Director Jory Stewart
Public Works Director Jim Bell
Utilities Director David Bereskin

VERIFICATION: Anita Sheldon
Chief Deputy City Clerk

BUSINESS:

1. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING THE NORTH 5TH STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND PLANNING STUDY.

City Manager Gregory Rose advised Staff was seeking direction from Council on policy regarding North 5th Street. He requested Public Works Director Jim Bell to make a presentation on the progress of the project.

Director Bell advised several workshops had been held with residents in the community to receive input and comments. Extensive meetings were also held with the Regional Transportation Commission, the Chamber of Commerce and members of the business community.

Roger Patton, The Louis Berger Group, 500 Amigo Court #100, Las Vegas, advised there were two separate projects being considered. One was the improvement project for North 5th Street from Owens Avenue to Cheyenne Avenue and the other was the planning study going north from Cheyenne Avenue to the Northern Beltway. Mr. Patton stated that, based on workshops conducted with residents of the area, several alternatives were identified based on a consensus among property owners, residents and City Staff.

Mr. Patton presented a photograph which depicted a gateway into North Las Vegas at the intersection of North 5th Street, Main Street and Las Vegas Boulevard. The gateway consisted of a circle with a traffic signal at each end and included landscaping and other aesthetic features. North 5th Street would have a 150-foot-wide cross-section with lanes of traffic, two lanes for dedicated transit and 20-foot landscaped trails on each side. Mr. Patton also showed an alternative cross-section on North 5th Street with center-running bus rapid transit, rather than on the side, which could be a precursor to possible light rail transit in the future. A landscaping plan was also prepared similar to the plants and vegetation on other streets in North Las Vegas.

Mr. Patton stated the project would consume approximately 4.5 acres of property which included three apartment buildings on the west side of North 5th Street owned by the North Las Vegas Housing Authority. If the project were to move forward with the circle concept, reconstruction of the affected buildings, which housed approximately 84 units, would have to be considered. In addition to traffic signals at Lake Mead Boulevard and Carey Avenue, consideration was also being given to the construction of a pedestrian crossing for Martinez Elementary School students.

Mr. Patton also presented a rendering of a North 5th Street bridge crossing over I-15, avoiding residential areas to the east side of I-15 and going straight through the back ends of industrial properties between I-15 and Losee Road.

Mr. Patton explained the planning study revealed the development north of Cheyenne Avenue should move forward in two steps. He proposed an interim facility consisting of seven signalized intersections between Cheyenne Avenue and the Northern Beltway which included Deer Springs Way, Centennial Parkway, Ann Road, Washburn Road, Craig Road, Alexander Road and Colton Avenue. These locations would also be designated transit stops. During the interim, attempts would be made to acquire the 150-foot-wide corridor and limit access to the signalized locations.

Mr. Patton stated the plan was to ultimately have a 150-foot-wide cross-section with six travel lanes; however, some recently-constructed homes showed only 130 feet. The desired facilities could still fit within the 130 feet but the landscaping in the median would have to be eliminated and the landscaping on the side would have to be narrowed. Mr. Patton stated there were only seven homes constructed within 50 feet and no setback which would have to be acquired to move forward with the project.

Regarding the section running from Cheyenne Avenue to Craig Road, Mr. Patton's recommendation was to keep North 5th Street elevated, continue it over Colton Avenue and provide an at-grade crossing underneath North 5th Street at Colton Avenue. He also recommended an east-west crossing at Alexander Road consisting of a two-lane overpass while still maintaining access from Alexander Road to North Fifth Street. There would be a north-south overpass at Craig Road with frontage roads providing access between Craig Road and North 5th Street.

Regarding the section running from Craig Road to Ann Road, Mr. Patton proposed a two-lane bridge over Washburn Road connecting with Mojave High School and a full north-south bridge with frontage roads providing full access to Ann Road. He also proposed an east-west crossing at Centennial Parkway.

Mr. Patton presented artist's renderings of several alternatives of the project and offered to respond to questions.

Mayor Montandon asked Mr. Patton about the time element between the interim design and the ultimate project. Mr. Patton responded nothing would be accomplished before the construction of the bridge in the south which was estimated to be completed in 2011 or 2012. The rights-of-way also needed to be acquired in the northern section. Mr. Patton suggested the trigger points be prioritized in the order they would be completed when the funding was acquired.

When questioned by Councilman Buck about the cross-section going from 150 to 130 feet, Mr. Patton stated traffic would not be affected; only the landscaping would be impacted.

Mayor Montandon expressed concern that current situations would radically change over the next ten or twelve years and the data that currently existed would not be relevant at that time. Mr. Patton agreed and responded that was the reason so many alternatives were presented at the workshops.

Director Bell commented it was too early in the project to make any definite decisions and felt further planning was necessary, especially with the high school locations.

Councilman Buck expressed concern about the short-term access routes from North 5th Street to various roadways, such as Washburn Road and Cheyenne Avenue. Mr. Patton

assured her there would be access to those roadways. When asked by Councilman Buck about the time frame for the completion of the North 5th Street and Beltway intersection, Mr. Patton stated it was currently under final design; however, construction was not scheduled by Clark County until 2012.

Mayor Pro Tempore Robinson asked Mr. Patton about the approximately 60 homes located between Owens Avenue and Carey Avenue that would be impacted by the project. He was concerned that the homeowners would not be able to afford the cost to relocate. Director Bell responded those concerns would be brought to the attention of the Regional Transportation Commission and he felt every effort would be made to fairly compensate the homeowners.

When asked by Councilwoman Smith about landscaping requirements for future developers, Planning and Zoning Manager Marc Jordan responded the landscaping being proposed by the North 5th Street project was created to serve as a buffer between the traffic and the multi-use trail being proposed outside of the 150 feet. Future developers would still be required to provide landscaping on the outside of the sidewalk to serve as a buffer between the sidewalk and their properties.

City Manager Rose asked Director Bell to address the issue of left-hand turns on the interim corridor. Director Bell advised that on at least two occasions development came to the City on the North 5th Street Corridor and both developers had agreed to provide left-hand turns in the median cuts for access points which would eventually be removed. Director Bell stated Staff supported this concept for the interim corridor if Council desired to move forward with it.

Councilman Buck was hesitant to bind a future Council to the decisions made by the current Council. Director Bell stated the main concern was that the roadways were safe and the City had discretion over what constituted safe improvements. Mayor Montandon suggested if a developer requested left-turn access, it would be subject to Council decision. He also suggested the policy should be to deed-restrict the property to potentially allow only right-in/right-out access in the future if Council decided the traffic problem warranted it.

Councilwoman Smith requested clarification that full access would be permitted at major intersections. Council approval for left-turn access would only be required at mid-block sections between traffic signals.

ACTION: STAFF DIRECTED TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

RIGHT-IN / RIGHT-OUT ACCESS ONTO NORTH 5TH STREET IS STANDARD.

LEFT-IN / LEFT-OUT ACCESS REQUESTS MAY ONLY BE GRANTED BY CITY COUNCIL AND MUST BE SUPPORTED BY A TRAFFIC STUDY. PROPERTIES MUST BE DEED RESTRICTED STATING THE PROPERTY OWNER WOULD REMOVE THE LEFT-IN / LEFT-OUT ACCESS ONCE THE PERMANENT ROAD IS CONSTRUCTED.

MOTION: Mayor Montandon
SECOND: Councilman Buck
AYES: Mayor Montandon, Mayor Pro Tempore Robinson, Council Members Smith, Buck and Eliason
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

2. DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION TO CITY MANAGER AND CONSULTANT REGARDING THE PRELIMINARY SCHEMATIC ALTERNATIVES FOR THE CRAIG RANCH REGIONAL PARK.

Parks and Recreation Director Mike Henley advised that on July 25 through July 27 City Staff met with representatives Moore Iacofano Goltsman, Inc. (MIG) for a design charette with the goal of producing three viable alternative concepts for a future regional park that could be moved forward for community input. The final stage of the charette was to seek additional input from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and the City Council. City Manager Gregory Rose requested that MIG return to meet with Council to discuss the results of the charette, the three alternatives and the next steps in the process. Director Henley introduced **Susan Goltsman** and **Rebecca Colbert of MIG**, who provided three alternatives of the conceptual master plan.

Ms. Goltsman stated a visioning workshop was conducted with City Staff and that information, along with the information gained from focus groups, was utilized to create a design program after which a site analysis was prepared.

The site analysis report was presented by Ms. Colbert who advised, aside from the golf course, the site included a clubhouse, maintenance facilities and other supportive facilities. The northern portion of the site was bounded by a concrete drainage channel which precluded access to the site from the north. Ms. Colbert described the various plant life that existed on the site which included pine trees and salt cedars. Several species of wildlife also existed on the site to include rabbits, quail and other varieties of birds. Other natural factors affecting the site were a fault line running through the site, as well as some areas of fissure.

Ms. Colbert stated the site was irrigated by ponds which were fed by five wells. A small amount of City water was utilized by residential areas located on the golf course. Access to utilities for future development was available on Craig Road and Commerce Street.

Ms. Colbert advised there were residential uses to the north of the site and there was a site proposed for residential development to the southeast of the site. As a result, a buffer would be required to separate the park from the residential areas. The site was also bordered by Commerce which provided a secondary entrance to the site. A regional trail was being planned to run along the northern border of the park and connect with the bridge over the drainage channel at Camino Del Norte and on the eastern side of the site.

Ms. Goltsman stated during the three-day design charette, the members were separated into three different groups that developed three different alternatives based on the design principles. She emphasized the design principles were based on creating a usable site for all people of different ages, cultures and abilities. Ms. Goltsman stated it was important to be respectful of the surrounding residents and ensure they were connected to the park development. The following three alternatives were presented:

Alternative One

The first alternative was based on a naturalistic experience, such as walking trails and maintenance of the existing tree canopy, combined with informal sports areas, such as tennis courts and sand volleyball, rather than a programmed sports facility. The main entrance to the park, as well as a separate exit, would be on Craig Road. All three conceptual plans contained an on-site park maintenance facility located in the northwest corner near Camino Al Norte. Also included in each scheme was a full-scale dog park located in the same vicinity as the maintenance facility.

Included in Alternative One was an indoor aquatics facility housing a family-type recreational pool with a transparent facade to give the feeling of being outdoors. Also included was an outdoor beach-type swimming area and a play area. The aquatic area would also house a park office for staff. In keeping with the informal sports theme, a skate park was included in this concept. All plans included an amphitheater for special events.

A secondary entrance off Commerce Street was included in each alternative near a small play area with restroom facilities separate from the main sections of the park.

Ms. Colbert stated approximately 70% of the trees currently on the site would be maintained in this scheme.

Alternative Two

Ms. Goltsman stated Alternative Two was designed with the entrance leading to the aquatic center. The parking areas were designed to be closed off to create different types of gathering places or a farmer's market. The indoor aquatic center was connected to an outdoor swimming hole as an extension of the building. The formal sports fields in this scheme were located at the edge of the park and the informal sports fields were located in the center of the park.

The dog park was located near the maintenance facility and contained a separate parking lot. The Commerce Street entrance contained a small community park to allow residents to walk to the site.

This scheme provided a balance of passive and active recreation, programmed and unprogrammed, while maintaining the pastoral appearance of the existing site. Fifty percent of the tree cover would be maintained in this alternative.

Alternative Three

Ms. Colbert stated a softball four-plex was included in this alternative with lighted fields for programmed sports. Consideration was being given to bringing in an interactive water stream feature to the sports complex for cooling off between games.

Alternative Three also included lighted multi-use fields sized to accommodate soccer, football, lacrosse and other field sports. There was an indoor aquatic center; however, no outdoor swimming area was included in this scheme. Only 30% of the existing trees would remain in this alternative.

Ms. Goltsman requested permission from Council to proceed to obtain input from the public regarding the three alternative concepts. She stated it was expected citizens would select features from each of the alternatives, rather than selecting one over the other, which would result in a fourth and final plan. Ms. Goltsman advised there would be an interactive booth at the upcoming Balloonpalooza event at which people could vote on the various alternatives. The alternatives would also be included in the October edition of the City of North Las Vegas newsletter, as well as on an interactive website on the internet.

With Council approval, Ms. Goltsman stated community workshops were scheduled for October 18, 2006 to obtain public input and comment.

Mayor Montandon commented he felt Alternatives One and Two contained too much wasted space. He also suggested facing the amphitheater to the northwest in Alternative Three due to the afternoon sun. Mayor Montandon also expressed concern over the safety and hygiene issues associated with an outdoor swimming hole.

In response to a question by Councilman Buck, Ms. Goltsman stated three different sketches of the conceptual plans would be available for review by citizens at the workshops and on the internet.

Councilman Buck commented that 500 acre feet of water were currently available on the site and asked if that amount of water would be sufficient to maintain the park. Mr. Patton responded that issue had not yet been explored by his staff but would be done in the near future. City Manager Rose advised the City reserved the water rights as part of the Craig Ranch Golf Course purchase and they were required to be used on the property.

ACTION: STAFF DIRECTED TO MOVE FORWARD TO OBTAIN PUBLIC INPUT ON THE PROJECT.

PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public participation.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 5:30 P.M.

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tempore Robinson

SECOND: Councilman Eliason

AYES: Mayor Montandon, Mayor Pro Tempore Robinson, Council Members Smith, Buck and Eliason

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

APPROVED: October 18, 2006