

City of Elko)
County of Elko)
State of Nevada)

SS August 9, 2011

The City Council of the City of Elko, State of Nevada met for a special workshop/meeting beginning at 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 9, 2011.

This meeting was called to order by Mayor Chris J. Johnson

Mayor Present: Chris J. Johnson

Council Present: Councilman Jim Conner
Councilman Jay Elquist arrived @ 3:35 p.m.
Councilman Richard Perry
Councilman John Rice

City Staff Present: Curtis Calder, City Manager
Delmo Andreozzi, Assistant City Manager
Shanell Owen, City Clerk
Don Zumwalt, Police Chief
Mike Hecht, Acting Fire Chief/Fire Marshal
Ryan Limberg, Utilities Director
Dennis Strickland, Public Works Director
Development Manager Wilkinson
James Wiley, Park Superintendent
Jeremy Draper, Civil Engineer
Linda Buffington, Recording Secretary

I. WORKSHOP

- A. Discussion and review of the City of Elko Charter as it pertains to the City of Elko Vision and Mission Statements, and matters related thereto.
PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BE TAKEN PRIOR TO ANY CITY COUNCIL ACTION: FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Councilman Rice informed the Council, as agreed; he and Councilman Perry met to begin work on a new Mission Statement. They first reviewed the current Mission Statement and believed there is nothing wrong with the current mission of the City of Elko; but rather the statement itself is not as well stated as it could be.

Councilman Rice noted in writing the draft for presentation tonight they took in to consideration suggestions, comments and recommendations made by Council and Staff at the previous workshop. Consideration was also given to what the City does and is responsible for. Councilman Rice then read for the Council the 'Draft' Mission Statement; see Exhibit 'A'.

Councilman Rice noted the statement really covers what is in the current Mission Statement. They added “safe, livable and healthy” as that was a component they saw repeated in some of the information provided by Councilman Elquist. They believe the new statement is simple, to the point and actionable. When we make decisions we can easily consider that decision and ask; is this forwarding our mission?

Mayor Johnson questioned the Council on what they wanted to do. Is this enough, are we done or do we want to refine it more?

Councilman Rice encouraged and welcomed comments from both Council and Staff; keeping in mind we know what our functions are but we want this to be a statement everyone can understand and support.

Mayor Johnson commented at first glance he liked stopping at the first sentence. It is simple and straight; *“The mission of the Elko City Council and the operating departments it oversees is to provide for our citizens a safe, livable and healthy community through a responsive, transparent and financially sound city Government”*. That really fits with what it says in the charter. It is narrow enough and broad enough at the same time. Mayor Johnson wondered if a Mission Statement could be that short.

Councilman Rice also believed the first sentence would be a good mission statement; he and Councilman Perry may have discussed that. But in the mission statement, to make it clear to the community what it is we are responsible for; the second paragraph lays it out exactly. The third paragraph addresses service; we serve at the pleasure of the community; but the importance of volunteerism in the governing of this community was noted and it is important for us to include and acknowledge that also.

Councilman Perry advised they looked at numerous mission statements from different organizations and also the definition of a mission statement. Mission Statements are telling you about what you are and what you do; Vision Statements talk about what you want to be.

Councilman Perry advised the first sentence of the draft is the statement of our goals. The second sentence shows it is a Mission Statement for the City Council and Staff; it is the whole organization of the City of Elko, and that is important. Sentence three says how we will do it.

Councilman Perry envisioned this on the City website and displayed on the wall in Council Chambers. Possibly through this process and with further vetting by Staff, the newspaper might print it; which would allow the public to comment on it as well. Councilman Perry noted the Mission Statement includes just how much the City actually does; which he believed most people don’t realize.

Councilman Perry acknowledged the draft is much shorter than the current Mission Statement and believed it needs further vetting; it isn’t something we want to approve right now. Everyone should look at it, including Staff; the public should somehow have a chance to comment on it too.

Councilman Conner agreed with Councilmen Rice and Perry; we need to have these other things in there because it explains what we are responsible for. Councilman Conner expressed his belief they had done an excellent job.

Councilman Elquist agreed it was an excellent job but he did have some thoughts and comments. Perhaps the draft could be reworded to say; “it is the mission of the City, through its City Council, its operating departments and its citizens” so we include everyone in the mission. He liked financially sound, transparent and responsive. Councilman Elquist indicated he would like a financial element included somewhere; you have to balance the finances with all of the great things we are going to offer.

Mayor Johnson agreed. There is a triangle; quality, time and dollars; they all have to be in balance. Our job is balancing those dollars and what type of service.

Councilman Elquist indicated that is what he was thinking; we will balance the amount of resources we have.

Councilman Rice clarified the City will balance its resources to provide citizens with ‘x’.

Councilman Elquist noted the resources include volunteers.

Mayor Johnson suggested the verbiage of “the City will balance services, encourage citizen involvement”.

Councilman Elquist strongly supported a financial component in the Mission Statement where Council or Staff can challenge a citizen and say; it is a great idea, we would like to do everything but.....

Councilman Elquist acknowledged what we are saying we are responsible for is true but he wasn't sure we should be responsible for some of the regional services. It does belong on today's Mission Statement and is a different debate at some point.

Councilman Rice advised he and Councilman Perry had discussed that.

Councilman Elquist referred to some regional services in the draft and was unsure it was our mission; but we are responsible for them. It is probably more of a Vision Statement; the vision is to get some of these regional services served under a regional tax base.

Mayor Johnson questioned how the Council wanted to move forward from here.

Councilman Rice supported taking the comments from tonight and creating another draft; come back with changes for presentation at the next Council Meeting.

Councilman Elquist suggested putting it on the next agenda under Public Hearing.

**** Councilman Rice moved to direct Staff to vet this statement which will include revisions made today, through departments between now and the next meeting for their comments.**

Councilman Rice stated he wanted Staff to have an opportunity to look at it before it goes to Public Hearing.

Councilman Rice advised he would withdraw the motion. He will make the revisions then have the City Manager circulate it through Staff so comments can be presented at the next Council Meeting; from there we will take it to the Public Hearing process.

Councilman Rice questioned if there needed to be a motion for that.

Mayor Johnson stated it is pretty informal; was the Council okay with that or did they want a motion. Mayor Johnson advised a workshop could be held prior to the next Council Meeting or it could be addressed during the regular meeting.

Councilman Rice believed it could be addressed during the regular Council Meeting; there maybe comments we can decide upon at that time and then draft it for Public Hearing.

Councilman Elquist suggested allowing more time i.e. two meetings from now.

Councilman Perry requested verification Councilman Rice would be collecting comments.

Councilman Rice clarified the revisions to be made;

- 1) The mission of the City of Elko through its City Council and operating departments and its citizens is to oversee.
- 2) The final paragraph will include; the City will balance its resources to provide our citizens with quality services and encourage citizen involvement and volunteerism.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Chris J. Johnson adjourned the workshop.

Mayor Chris J. Johnson

Shanell Owen, City Clerk