



Laughlin Town Advisory Board

September 10, 2019

MINUTES

Board Members:	Gina Mackey – Chair Kathy Ochs – Vice Chair James Maniaci	Nile Smith Kathleen Whitehead
Secretary:	Tammy Harris, (702) 298-0828 tammy.harris@clarkcountynv.gov	
Town Liaison:	Dr. Brian Paulson, (702) 298-0828 bkp@clarkcountynv.gov	

- I. Call to Order by Gina Mackey, Invocation led by Pastor Doug Westly, Pledge of Allegiance by James Maniaci.
- The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.
- II. Public Comment:
- Arizona resident Scotty McClure said what he had to say was not on the agenda.
- III. Approval of Minutes for August 13, 2019 (For possible action)
- Kathleen Whitehead said she would like to withdraw her yes vote to a nay vote regarding the CDBG senior center application. Dr. Paulson explained she was unable to change her vote.
- Moved by: James Maniaci
Action: Approved as written, 4-0, with Kathy Ochs abstaining to being absent at this meeting.
- IV. Approval of agenda for September 10, 2019, and hold, combine or delete any items (For possible action)
- Moved by: James Maniaci
Action: Approved 5-0
- V. Informational Items
1. Receive a report from Senator Joe Hardy on legislative sessions as pertaining to Laughlin. (For discussion only)

Chair Gina Mackey introduced Senator Joseph Hardy, Assistant Minority Leader of the Nevada Senate.

Senator Hardy spoke about Laughlin and stated Laughlin is a beautiful place. He began his discussion with town history starting with the Enron settlement.

“The settlement required a payment and the Colorado River Commission (CRC) was in charge of the Fort Mohave (Valley) Development Fund (FMDF) and so asking on how to figure out to make the \$5 million payment, they found the money in the FMDF. So they took that \$5 million and thus Senator Warren Hardy and I worked together to allow the CRC to not have that opportunity again. That is what led to the County of Clark being able to have a bill we passed to allow for some oversight for the money and a fund to be created within the County that was the FMDF. That particular bill was in 2007 - SB 301. This bill requires that all public lands held, controlled, and administered by the CRC that are located in the Fort Mohave Valley and all money in the FMDF be transferred to the State of Nevada. So that’s where we are at with the fund. The monies can only be used in the purposes expressly authorized by the Fort Mohave Development Law. One of the things this says is the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) shall use money in the FMDF to pay (a) any cost incurred by the committee on local government finance created by the NRS for the preparation of the report related to the fiscal feasibility of the incorporation of the City of Laughlin, that is required by section four of Chapter 481, statute of Nevada 2011. Any cost incurred by the County to hold the elections and any other cost incurred by the County or City of Laughlin associated with the incorporation of the City of Laughlin to the extent that gifts grants or donations not available to pay for the expenses. That is what led to the different iterations of the concept of should we or should we not incorporate,” he said.

“A wonderful letter from a Patricia Fisher during the session where she basically said wouldn’t it be wonderful if we have a study that gives the opportunity to know where we are at, what we’re doing. So one of the things I have done recently is I talked with Alex Ortiz who works for the County of Clark and said I would like a report of the revenues and the budget of the County’s oversight of the special account. Separate and distinct is the FMDF as well as the revenues that come from Laughlin the town and as well as Laughlin the casino corridor. We have had iterations in the Legislature looking at how if the town was going to be a city, what would be the best way to do it in being able to afford it. We know there are opportunities to look at on how you can afford some things. We are going to have a meeting with Alex Ortiz on the 23rd of September, 2:00 p.m., and I would invite Madam Chair and one of the other TAB members and Marvin Leavitt, who is the chair of the local government finance to be there. Alex Ortiz will have the County people who are responsible for the budget and the revenue sources.”

Senator Hardy spoke of particular bills affecting Laughlin since 2007 and the challenges for businesses and residents.

“When looking at Laughlin at a legislative standpoint, we looked at who wants to be part of the incorporation and who doesn’t. It was very clear that the casino owners did not want to be a part of

it. When looking at the property valuation, it was noticed that some were going down closer to the river and better in the residential area of Laughlin, so it may be the residential section of Laughlin would be supporting the town of Laughlin. If there was an incorporation study, it would have to reflect how much money comes from the residential side and how much money comes from the casino/gaming side to be able to make it work,” he said.

Chair Mackey thanked the Senator before opening up questions from the board.

Kathy Ochs said she and the Senator share a parallel history. Ms. Ochs said she is well aware that a lot of these have followed agendas and “have been brought forward to you predominantly from our local historians of this community who asked if the information and input is only what is genuinely received about what the goals and the future is for Laughlin or is there an avenue to reach out to you for other things and other people of the community that may not be represented by the LEDC.”

Senator Hardy provided his business card and phone numbers where he can always be reached.

Kathleen Whitehead asked about daylight savings time and being on the same time as Arizona. Senator Hardy said Nevada and California would stay on the same time for economic reasons.

Nile Smith spoke about the fuel tax bill, saying “you mentioned Alex Ortiz, who is not a friend to Laughlin. He was here last month and tried to discuss this with him. He reminded me he does not work for Laughlin, he works for the County. I told him we can’t trust him after what he did and that he has worn out his welcome in Laughlin.” According to Mr. Smith, “Mr. Ortiz responded simply saying that is one man’s opinion and you don’t count.”

Mr. Smith said he asked Mr. Ortiz if he understood what a border town was and why a description was not put in for border towns that would clearly define “border town.” He said he did not receive an answer. Mr. Smith then asked the Senator if the fuel tax bill is revisited again, that the description of border town be written in.

Mr. Smith moved onto a question about incorporation, saying the town board had a lot of questions but are not getting any answers. He said he could not take a position without the financials to determine if Laughlin could stand independently financially or not.

“We need those financials. It can’t be something Alex Ortiz takes to the Legislature. It has to be something we can depend on. The citizens of Laughlin are entitled to that information and have a right to know. How can we get those financials?” he asked as to the best approach.

Senator Hardy said he appreciated the question. He spoke about other towns that incorporated and “using the “C” tax (a consolidated tax that list about five different taxes), then it is disbursed to counties and cities. There is a formula on whether it will be disbursed or not once incorporated. He said do the math, on what it would cost to run a city. When you start looking at it, it becomes a labor intensive cost which included how many firemen are needed, what is the response time, do they live

in the city, and are more fire fighters needed? Will they be paid the same amount as Clark County is paying them? What are the costs for Metro? Will money be saved because people won't be coming from out of town? Will the fire rating insurance change? There will be ramifications for doing the incorporations, not doing the incorporations, staffing, what you would get from the revenue source from property tax and where money would come from, from different sources." He said this needs to be put on paper and is something that needs to be figured out.

Mr. Smith said when the incorporation bill did not come out of committee, he said he wrote every committee member and asked why it failed. He only received one response from Senator David Parks. According to Mr. Smith, Senator Parks (District 7) said he was "very disappointed and was very familiar with Laughlin and thought it was time for Laughlin to be incorporated and would benefit from incorporation." Smith said he then wrote to other legislators and got an interesting response from one of the legislators that "Alex Ortiz, who was lobbying on behalf of Clark County, told legislators, and this is a quote 'that he didn't believe that Laughlin could function on its own with the current funding sources.' And thereby he effectively killed those bills because he told legislators finances did not allow us to be incorporated. One of those bills allowed residents of Laughlin to vote on an issue. As far as I'm concerned, these finances better say that Laughlin couldn't stand on our own. Otherwise, he took away Laughlin citizens' right to vote by this nefarious activity. That for me is about as un-American as you can get," he said.

Mr. Smith thanked the Senator for help he could give when working with the County and asked if there was a way to verify numbers obtained from the County.

Senator Hardy said "Marvin Leavitt, the Financial Committee Chair, and 8-9 other people on the financial committee, would be the people who would literally sign off on the reality of the figures and the reality of the feasibility. I will say that Alex Ortiz's job is to represent the County, and even though we are in the County, his job is to do what the County tells him. When you are a lobbyist, you do what your organization/government entity tells you to do."

Mr. Smith said there are other ways to incorporate other than going through legislation. Senator Hardy said yes, the County "can allow incorporation and if they really wanted to get rid of Laughlin, they could do it through the County." Mr. Smith asked if citizens could petition by special vote once financials are received. The Senator said that "legally, as a town, there is not a way even with signatures. What that does, it tells whoever is running for office next time is to spend more time in Laughlin and get more votes."

James Maniaci said the Senator quoted the Laughlin population to be about 7,200, with that figure being about 10 years old. A recent number from the County was 10,500 plus from the subdivision on the Indian golf course to Palm Gardens on US 95. Mr. Maniaci asked how soon after the meeting on the 23rd would there be some numbers to look at.

“The way the government works, it won’t be the next day, but recognizing the next session is in 2021 and that’s when it becomes critical to have the number and everybody has the opportunity to see what those numbers are,” Senator Hardy responded.

2. Receive a report from Lt. Jeff Hewes with Metro Police regarding activity and statistics during the past month and other area crime concerns. (For discussion only)

Lt. Jeff Hewes provided the August report.

August 2019 Statistics:

Calls for Service: 404
Traffic Citations: 440
DUIs: 3
Battery Domestic Violence Arrests: 11
Bookings: 66
Juvenile Citations: 0

Tuesday October 1st is the “National Night Out” hosted by Metro and to be held at Mountain View Park.

3. Receive a report from Nevada Highway Patrol regarding activity and statistics during the last month and other public safety concerns. (For discussion only)

Sgt. Dice provided the August report.

August 2019 Statistics:

Calls for Service: 675
DUIs: 2
Arrest: 19

Sgt. Dice acknowledged Lt. Hewes and the good working relationship between Metro and the NHP.

He said Nipton Road is quite busy. Every Sunday there is a huge influx due in part to Google maps sending everybody through Searchlight. This has been going on since May and it will continue, he said.

Kathleen Whitehead asked about a non-resident driver’s license. Sgt. Dice said this is for people who live in Nevada but refuse to get their Nevada license. The NHP is writing out citations for people who do not comply and it is a very expensive citation. If not working, they have 45 days; if working, they must get their license switched immediately.

4. Receive a report from Clark County Fire Department regarding calls for service during the past month and other fire prevention issues. (For discussion only)

Captain Whitney provided the 2019 August report.

Total calls for Laughlin in August 2019 were 251.

Significant calls included the drowning of a 16-year-old. There was also the Big Bend State Park brush fire which burned over 200 acres. The brush fire involved seven additional agencies including two air drops providing assistance. There were no structures that were damaged.

There were three days of swift water training working with the Colorado River Operations and the Division of Forestry.

Kathleen Whitehead commented on the rows of small flags on display in front of the fire station. Capt. Whitney said there is a flag for each firefighter who lost his or her life during 9/11. There will be a remembrance ceremony tomorrow morning at 6:50 a.m. in front of the flag pole with both Metro and NHP participating.

James Maniaci asked if only one truck was available. Capt. Whitney said no, both 85 and 76 were both on site, along with six other agencies.

Kathleen Whitehead asked if the fire department found the cause of the fire. Capt. Whitney said not that he was aware of.

5. Receive a report from Greg Turner with Clark County Water Reclamation District regarding the status of the wastewater system. (For discussion only)

A written report was provided by Greg Turner.

Laughlin Water Reclamation Facility (LWRF) had an average of 1.94 million gallons per day producing clean water returned to the Colorado River. Flow decreased 120,000 gallons per day from this time last year.

Sewer Service Complaints: None

Odor Complaints: None

Call Before You Dig: 32 tickets received for August 2019

6. Receive a report from Jason Bailey with Big Bend Water District regarding the status of the water system. (For discussion only)

Diversions:

August 2019: 378 acre feet

2019 YTD total diversion: 2,471 acre – feet

2018 YTD total diversions: 2,624 acre – feet

7. Receive a report from Will Douglas with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension regarding the status of programs and upcoming activities. (For discussion only)

Will Douglas introduced some special guests he brought with him, including Nora Luna, a new 4-H faculty member in Las Vegas. Two kids also came with their families, Bobby and Chelsea, who were two of nine kids attending summer camp.

Mr. Douglas spoke about a prequel to a parenting workshop called STEM, featuring reading and hands-on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities designed for families with preschoolers. The class will be held on Saturday, November 23rd at the Library from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This class will determine if there is a broader need for additional classes.

Mr. Douglas presented a short PowerPoint presentation with some pictures of the activities during summer camp.

Both Bobby and Chelsea spoke of their summer adventures. Bobby spoke about his favorite activities during camp, which included the polar plunge in which you run into the lake early in the morning and then run out and saying how cool it was. Another favorite was the Pokémon hunting and archery.

Chelsea said she enjoyed camp very much and that she was lucky enough to not only go this year but last year, too. Her favorite part was meeting all new best friends.

Mr. Douglas said the kids had a blast and inquiries are already being received for next year's summer camp. He thanked the donors who stepped up to help the kids go to summer camp.

8. Receive a report from Jackie Mazzeo with Laughlin Chamber of Commerce regarding current and upcoming business activities in Laughlin. (For discussion only)

Events:

The Fourth Annual Tri-State Regional Mega Mixer was held on Friday, September 6th at 5:30 p.m. at the Aquarius Casino Resort Pavilion. The mixer was a great success and 100 percent of the entry fee will go to Feed a Family program for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners through the Aquarius Resort and local food banks.

The 22nd Annual Community Achievement Awards will be held on Saturday, October 26th at 5:30 p.m. at the Aquarius Casino Resort Pavilion. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$750 per table.

Mixers:

Networking and Education Breakfast – Yanick Hicks’ “Becoming a Person of Influence” will be held on Friday, September 7th at 8:30 a.m. at the Laughlin Chamber. As space is limited, call (702) 298-2214 to RSVP.

Members:

Active Members: 269

New Members: 11 for Q3 to date 2019

25 percent are Laughlin members

9. Receive a report from Jackie Mazzeo with the Laughlin Tourism Commission regarding current and upcoming events and activities. (For discussion only)

Events:

The 4th Annual Method Race Wheels Laughlin Desert Classic – “Dual in the Desert” will be held

October 9-13, 2019.

The Toby Keith concert will be held on November 9th.

The Spartan event will be held November 16-17th.

The Run Laughlin 5K, 12K and Half Marathon – “Two States, Two Time Zones and One Dam Great Race” will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2019. Registration is open at www.mercuryevent.com.

The SNORE racing event will be held December 12-15.

10. Receive a report from Richard deClercq with Parks & Recreation regarding the status of programs and upcoming activities. (For discussion only)

Richard deClercq provided the August report.

August 2019 Statistics:

49 programs

531 participants

2,369 visits

Upcoming Special Events:

Trivia Night will be held on Friday, September 13th from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. The cost is \$32 per team of four.

A South County Showdown OTL Tournament has been cancelled.

An Adult Cornhole League will begin September 12th. Cost is \$30 per team of two. The 10-week league will include games played indoors at Gnat’s Landing on Thursday night from 6-9:00 p.m. Cash prize for overall winner.

Summer Programming at the Senior Center:

- Wii bowling
- Indoor Ladder Ball
- Indoor Cornhole – League Practice for 50+
- Movie in the Park will be held on Friday, September 20th, 6:00 -8:00 p.m.
- National Night Out with Metro will be held on Tuesday, October 1st, 5:00 p.m. at Mountain View Park.
- Murder Mystery at Spirit Mountain Senior Center will be held on Friday, October 18th. Cost is \$8 per person.
- Laughlin Park in the Dark at Spirit Mountain Park will be held on Tuesday, October 29th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Updates:

A plan for a senior center was submitted to Real Property Management (RPM) for a design and construction cost estimate. As of yet, no reply has been received. Once obtained, the plan estimate will be submitted to Parks and Recreation administration for application completion.

The plan includes:

- 15 x 12 computer lab
- 30 x 40 fitness room
- 50 x 45 half gymnasium
- 15 x 30 game room
- (2) 30 x 30 multi use rooms
- Non-commercial kitchen with ice machine and storage
- Two offices
- Front desk
- Restrooms

Contact Info: Richard deClercq, Program Supervisor, (702) 298-3413

11. Receive a report from Laughlin school system regarding the status of programs and upcoming activities. (For discussion only)

No report

12. Receive a report from Tanya Brown-Wirth with Laughlin Library regarding current and upcoming activities. (For discussion only)

No report

13. Announcements of upcoming neighborhood meetings and County or community meetings and events. (For discussion only)

Kathleen Whitehead announced Saturday, September 28th is National Public Lands Day at the Pyramid Canyon Day Use Park. Activities start at 10:00 a.m.

Chair Mackey called a 10 minute intermission at 3:00 p.m. to reconvene at 3:10 p.m.

VI. Planning & Zoning:

1. **CP-19-900180:** That the Laughlin Town Advisory Board consider proposed changes to the Transportation Element of the Clark County Comprehensive Master Plan, and after conducting a public hearing, take appropriate action. **Forwarded To The 07/17/19 BCC Meeting. This item was held until the August 7th BCC Zoning Commission meeting. No further action at the time of this posting.**

ADOPTED.

VII. General Business:

1. Discuss and recommend possible Community Development Block Grant application support for Veterans Resource Center in Laughlin. (For possible action)

James Maniaci said there was not a physical application to be reviewed but the board could provide support for the project.

Commander Pamela Walker, American Legion Post 60, provided information regarding the CDBG process. She expressed concern that the community could be supporting too many projects which would hinder the possible approval of the proposed Veterans Center for which she is proposing. According to Ms. Walker, it has been over 25 years since a CDBG grant has funded a project in Laughlin which was for the Colorado River Food Bank. She is asking for the support of the town and the board for a Veterans Resource Center since Laughlin already has a senior center that can adequately accommodate all the functions and activities that are currently going on here in Laughlin.

Kathleen Whitehead asked Ms. Walker to let the people know what is involved with the resource center. Ms. Walker said it will include: six beds, kitchen, bathrooms, and a resource center to help veterans find jobs and learn skills. She said Laughlin currently has no facilities to help veterans and must send them across the river to Arizona for help, who is stretched to capacity. The only other alternative is Las Vegas, but transportation is not available.

Nile Smith asked how many veterans were served in Laughlin. Ms. Walker said 4,000, with almost no resources and a lot of monies coming out of our own pockets.

James Maniaci pointed out the board has already voted to submit one project and it's up to the grant committee in Las Vegas.

Chair Mackey added she thought it was a great situation and we can all support you in your application process.

Kathy Ochs asked if the board could entertain a vote to endorse the project. James Maniaci moved to support the Veterans Resource Center. Upon a voice vote, motion passed, 5-0.

2. Nominate a representative and an alternate to serve on the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC), and take any action deemed appropriate. (For possible action)

After a brief discussion on the CDAC nomination process, James Maniaci nominated Bob Bilbray and Cheryl Crow to serve as representative and alternate, respectively. Motion was approved by a voice vote of 4-1. Kathleen Whitehead voted nay.

Ms. Whitehead's subsequent nomination of Pamela Walker as representative and Novelt Mack as alternate was not considered.

James Maniaci read a letter in part provided by Bob Bilbray which Mr. Bilbray stated that he could speak for himself and for Ms. Crow by saying they would follow the recommendations of our town board as to consideration of each project application.

3. Review/finalize FY 2021 budget request(s) and take public comment on the budget request(s). (For possible action)

A lengthy discussion ensued on the capital budget request and a chart was provided to the LTAB with the budget request. The priorities were discussed and put in order of these priorities as capital expenditures.

	Gina Mackey	James Maniaci	Kathy Ochs	Nile Smith	Kathleen Whitehead	Total	Priority
RGC Control Room Digital Upgrade	10	10	10	0	10	40	1
RGC Meeting Room Furniture/Chair Replacement	5	6	8	0	6	25	3
CRC Exterior Paint to Match RGC Building	0	4	0	0	5	9	10
CRC Parking Lot Repaving	0	5	7	0	4	16	5
Chamber/Visitor Center Parking Lot Repaving	2	2	6	0	3	13	7
Romtec Building Air Conditioning--Pyramid Park	0	3	5	0	2	10	9
Trails Host Site	1	0	4	0	1	6	11
Crosswalk at Las Palmas & Needles Hwy	9	8	0	0	0	17	T-4
Traffic Signal at Bruce Woodbury & Needles Hwy	8	7	9	0	9	33	2
Spirit Mountain Parking Lot Repaving	3	1	1	0	7	12	8
Spirit Mountain Marquee Sign	7	0	2	0	8	17	T-4
Casino Drive Replanting	0	0	3	0	0	3	12
Creation of a Laughlin Cemetery	6	9	0	0	0	15	6

VIII. Public Comment:

Pamela Walker asked the community to support the Hometown Heroes, one such hero being Andrew Sapp who is currently stationed overseas and is requesting donations of baby wipes, toiletries, and laundry pods. The American Legion will ship these out to the military members in December.

Resident Kevin Stanton stated that he was opposed to incorporation as it would not be viable without the casinos. His concern is Laughlin would not have the same resources as what is currently available.

IX. Next Meeting Date: October 8, 2019

X. Adjournment: 4:00 p.m.

These minutes are in draft form and will be formally approved at the October 8, 2019 meeting. Any corrections to these minutes will be reflected in the meeting minutes of the November 12, 2019, meeting.

To listen to the audio recording of the Laughlin Town Advisory Board go to:
<http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/administrative-services/laughlin/Pages/LaughlinTownAdvisoryBoard.aspx>