

Carolyn G. Goodman, Mayor (At-Large)
Brian Knudsen, Mayor Pro Tem (Ward 1)
Victoria Seaman (Ward 2)
Olivia Díaz (Ward 3)
Francis Allen-Palenske (Ward 4)
Cedric Crear (Ward 5)
Nancy E. Brune (Ward 6)



City Manager Mike Janssen
City Attorney Jeff Dorocak
City Clerk LuAnn D. Holmes

Special City Council Minutes

Council Chambers · 495 South Main Street · Phone 702-229-6011
City of Las Vegas Internet Address: www.lasvegasnevada.gov

November 15, 2024
10:00 AM

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

MAYOR GOODMAN called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

PRESENT: MAYOR GOODMAN and COUNCILMEMBERS SEAMAN, DIAZ, ALLEN-PALENSKE, and BRUNE

EXCUSED: COUNCILMEMBERS KNUDSEN and CREAR

ALSO PRESENT: DEPUTY CITY MANAGERS STEVE FORD and SABRA NEWBY, CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCAC and CITY CLERK DR. LUANN D. HOLMES

2. Announcement Regarding: Compliance with Open Meeting Law

Minutes:

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE: This meeting has been properly noticed and posted at the following locations in accordance with the noticing standards as outlined in NRS 241.020: City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor; the City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov; and the Nevada Public Notice website – notice.nv.gov.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

MAYOR GOODMAN led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

4. Public comment during this portion of the Agenda must be limited to matters on the Agenda for action. If you wish to be heard, come to the podium and give your name for the record. The amount of discussion, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

Minutes:

None.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

CITY CLERK - DISCUSSION

5. Discussion for possible action regarding the certification of canvassed election returns for the November 5, 2024 Municipal General Election

Minutes:

CITY CLERK DR. LUANN D. HOLMES reported on the results of the 2024 General Municipal Election. There was an active voter registration of 421,476 voters in the city. Of the 291,672 votes cast, 123,077 were cast by mail, 116,034 were cast during the early voting period, and 52,561 were cast at a Vote Center on Election Day. The total ballots cast represent 69.2 percent of the total registered voters. DR. HOLMES advised this was the second election year that combined the County (Clark County), State, and Federal races on a single ballot. The Registrar of Voters identified 121 discrepancies in the 291,672 ballots cast with no tabulation errors. She compared the voter turnout to the 2022 General Municipal Election, which had 138,318 registered voters and 85,948 ballots that were cast. She reported that the Statement of Vote, which contains the return of votes by precinct, was not received and was not included in the packet that was submitted to the Council. She said the Results of the Canvass reports, which were submitted for the record, were received from the Clark County Election Department at 4:20 a.m. on the day of the meeting. She believed the reporting criteria and possibly format was changed between the Primary Election and the General Election without any notification to the Office of the City Clerk. She showcased the size difference between the 2022 and 2024 reports, noting that the 2024 report has footers that indicate they received only a few pages of several reports. DR. HOLMES recommended the City Council accept and ratify the canvass of results for the 2024 General Election.

MAYOR GOODMAN wondered how they can accept and ratify the canvassed election results that they had not seen and could not be validated by the City Clerk.

CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCAK explained that this was the final day for City Council to do their ministerial duty of certifying the election results and noted that DR. HOLMES did a good job at explaining what information was provided and missing from the report. MR. DOROCAK recommended that the Council move forward with the motion.

COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ asked DR. HOLMES if there was anything about the election that concerned her in terms of canvassing the results and wanted to know if there was any reason why the report came the way it did from the County. DR. HOLMES said the City's responsibility to canvass is written in the Las Vegas City Charter and Nevada Revised Statutes. She explained that all surrounding cities received partial reports earlier that morning and indicated that they have asked for updates from the County continuously. She stated that she sits on the 2024 Election Certification Board that certifies the consistency and transparency of voting processes, noting that the document that ensures all reports, audits, and certifications were completed was not included in the report. The Statement of Vote report that breaks down each race by methods of voting was also not included in the report. She noted that that if any process changes were made, the Office of the City Clerk should have been notified. Finally, she reported that the County would certify their canvassed election results at 4:00 p.m. that day.

COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ pointed out that for the Primary Election, they were given a breakdown of each ward that showed voter engagement trends and was unsure why they did not have that document yet.

COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN understood that the canvass of results needed to be certified that day, but she felt that asking the Council to certify the results without all of the information was irresponsible. The Councilwoman did not feel comfortable voting on it and verifying the results after the fact. Further, she wanted to know when they anticipated receiving the rest of the report. DR. HOLMES replied they asked the County the same question and did not receive a response. She added that when she receives the complete report, she will share them with the Council. COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN wondered if the complete report would be provided that day, to which DR. HOLMES said she did not know. The Councilwoman asked if they could wait until later that day to vote on the item. MR. DOROCAK clarified that since the results were known and the record is clear that they did not receive the full report, they could canvass the results without all of the documents. He said they could take a recess and wait until the complete report is received.

MAYOR GOODMAN asked to hear from administrative staff. DEPUTY CITY MANAGER SABRA NEWBY stated that although they did not receive the analysis like in the past, she agreed with the City Attorney and felt the information needed to certify was provided.

COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ reported that the Nevada Secretary of State did not have any issues with the Council certifying the electoral results and encouraged them to proceed with the motion. She acknowledged the frustration with the Clark County Election Department, and she felt that an agency that can turn things around promptly was needed.

The Councilwoman did not believe they would receive the full report by the end of that day and said she would only have a pause for concern if there was a tight race in the city. Further, she added that if DR. HOLMES felt confident that the process was transparent, then she did not see what would be accomplished by waiting for the full report.

COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN wondered if the page numbers indicated how many total pages were a part of the document, to which DR. HOLMES answered in the affirmative. The Councilwoman felt it was unusual for the County to have all of the pages and not send them to the City Clerk.

MAYOR GOODMAN wished to hear from DEPUTY CITY MANAGER STEVE FORD, and he agreed that it would have been great to have the analysis but felt comfortable that they had the necessary information to move forward.

COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ added that according to the Nevada Secretary of State, they would need to file an emergency order with the Nevada Supreme Court if the Council did not canvass the results that day, which would disrupt moving forward with the electoral outcomes.

Motion made by Olivia Diaz to Accept and Certify the Canvassed results of the 2024 General Election

Passed For: 4; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 1; Excused: 2

For-Nancy Brune, Carolyn Goodman, Olivia Diaz, Francis Allen-Palenske; Did Not Vote-Victoria Seaman; Excused-Cedric Crear, Brian Knudsen;

6. Discussion for possible action regarding the appointment of one or two Councilmembers to the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA) board effective November 13, 2024 to serve at the December 10, 2024 LVCVA meeting from the list of the following nominees: Councilman Brian Knudsen, Councilwoman Victoria Seaman, Councilwoman Olivia Diaz, Councilwoman Francis Allen-Palenske and Councilwoman Nancy Brune

Minutes:

CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCÁK said this item would allow one or two Councilmembers to attend the December 10th LVCVA (Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority) meeting. MR. DOROCÁK explained that if no action was taken that day, there would be a second opportunity at the December 4th City Council meeting to appoint the Councilmember(s) permanently or as conditioned by the Council for one meeting or more.

MAYOR GOODMAN reported that the current Councilmembers and new Councilmember will receive their appointments to different committees and commissions after the new Mayor has an opportunity to learn their interests, strengths, and desires. She felt that unless someone volunteered, it was not in the best interest of the City to not have representation at the LVCVA meeting.

CITY CLERK DR. LUANN D. HOLMES believed that the LVCVA has processes that need to be set up before swearing in the nominee(s) on December 10th.

Motion made by NOTE: A motion was not made and no action was taken on this item.

For: 0; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 5; Excused: 2

Did Not Vote-Nancy Brune, Victoria Seaman, Carolyn Goodman, Olivia Diaz, Francis Allen-Palenske; Excused-Cedric Crear, Brian Knudsen;

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

7. Citizens Participation: Public comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters within the jurisdiction of the City Council. No subject may be acted upon by the City Council unless that subject is on the agenda and is scheduled for action. If you wish to be heard, come to the podium and give your name for the record. The amount of discussion on any single subject, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

Minutes:

TODD KESLER appeared to share his concerns about the disposition of Cashman (Cashman Center). MR. KESLER stated that he was in a meeting with a potential developer that morning and wished to share flaws he saw in the process. He said the City was disposing of an asset in a manner that could allow it to never be developed, since there were no development timelines. The PSA (public service announcement) that is a part of the auctioning process had obligations that come with certain risks due to zoning issues. He said he took this moment to share his concerns and say goodbye to MAYOR GOODMAN.

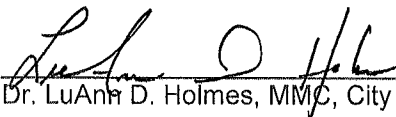
MAYOR GOODMAN appreciated MR. KESLER'S input and encouraged him to continue sharing his knowledge with the Council. The Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting during their day off.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Nick Crawford, Deputy City Clerk



Dr. LuAnn D. Holmes, MMC, City Clerk

THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NOTICING STANDARDS AS OUTLINED IN NRS 241.020:

- The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov
- The Nevada Public Notice website – notice.nv.gov
- City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor