



## Recommending Committee Minutes

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBERS KNUDSEN, SEAMAN and ALLEN-PALENSKE (excused until 10:04 a.m.)

ALSO PRESENT: DEPUTY CITY MANAGER STEVE FORD, CHIEF DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY VAL STEED, CITY CLERK LUANN D. HOLMES, and DEPUTY CITY CLERKS SAMANTHA DINICOLA and NICK CRAWFORD

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](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov); and the Nevada Public Notice website – [notice.nv.gov](http://notice.nv.gov).

3. Public Comment: Comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters on the agenda for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward 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.

4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the August 5, 2024 Recommending Committee Meeting

Motion made by Victoria Seaman to Approve

Passed For: 3; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

For-Victoria Seaman, Brian Knudsen, Francis Allen-Palenske;

5. Bill No. 2024-22 - ABEYANCE ITEM - For possible action - Adopts prohibitions and limitations regarding the purchase of scrap metal, consistent with and supplementary to State law on the subject. Sponsored by: Councilman Brian Knudsen

Minutes:

COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN declared the Public Hearing open.

JOSEPH NORBY, City Traffic Engineer and Deputy Public Works Director, and CHIEF JASON POTTS, Department of Public Safety Director, shared in narrating a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to provide a City of Las Vegas copper wire theft assessment. He explained copper wire theft continues to be a problem for the region due to the rise in the cost per pound of copper. He said

frequent sites for the theft occurs in street light access points, park lights, and trail lights. He displayed a map tracking the copper wire theft in 2023 and the expanded regions in 2024. He advised 500,000 linear feet, or 100 miles, of copper wire had been stolen within the city, which had a street value exceeding \$500,000. This had created more than 800 work orders averaging nearly 300 man-hours per month and \$1,500,000 in materials and labor expended since January of 2022. He said when the easier access points to the wire had been closed off, people started knocking light poles over and getting the wires from the bottom thus leaving an overturned pole in walk ways. He advised on current mitigation measures being done by the Public Works Department including aluminum wire replacement, welding of hand-hole covers, using lockable hand-hole covers, and gluing pull box lids.

CHIEF POTTS explained current theft mitigation measures being done by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) that included a reporting tip line, reward program, coordination with recycling centers, copper wire theft signage, and proactive policing. He listed potential solutions within proactive policing as target hardening, security cameras, encampments, GPS (Global Positioning System) trackers, recruitment of street recyclers as informants, and revising their online data center. He stated with this Ordinance they would prohibit the walk-up method for selling the wire and the acceptance of burned wire, update the payment methods allowed, and protect the business-to-business transactions.

CAPTAIN JOSH MARTINEZ, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, said they have been working with people in the industry and city staff in order to come to an agreement on what the ordinance would cover.

COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN stated this has been an ongoing issue, noting when he worked for the City in 2008, he wrote a grant to help offset the costs of stolen copper wire. He said it was a safety issue, as well as financial, and advised when he spoke with representatives in other jurisdictions they stated they would be willing to align with the City's ordinance once it was passed. He said he receives calls due to street lights being out, pedestrians being hit, and accidents occurring on dark streets due to the wire being stolen from the area. The Councilman clarified his intent was to keep people safe and he never wanted to hurt businesses, which was the reason he compromised with them regarding the ordinance. He asked MR. NORBY what other jurisdictions were implementing from a Public Works perspective, and MR. NORBY stated they had tactics similar to the City. He said they had been replacing copper with aluminum, changing from underground wiring to overhead, and welding hand-hole covers.

CHIEF DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY VAL STEED explained the original bill did not distinguish between metallic wire and scrap metal, and they received requests to narrow down the scope to wire. He said in the amendment they described specified metallic wire as being scrap metal in the form of solid single-strand or multi-strand wire made of non-ferrous material that fell within specified diameter requirements and they included business-to-business exemptions as well. He believed this amendment would capture what was asked for by staff and people within the industry at the previous Recommending Committee meeting.

COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN questioned if they were still meeting the objective with this amendment, and CHIEF POTTS believed they were. CHIEF POTTS said copper wire was currently being sold at \$4.65 per pound and lights were not the only thing being effected. He opined the catalytic converter ordinance that was implemented helped combat that crisis and he believed this would help the copper wire epidemic as well. MR. NORBY stated this was a stop-gap measure and was something they were able to do as a city to make the state legislatures start to work on legislature for the entire state. He hoped it would deter theft of copper wire and expressed concerns for the safety issues it proposed. CAPTAIN MARTINEZ thanked the Committee for the opportunity to work with staff on the ordinance and agreed it was a stop-gap measure. MR. NORBY showed the different types of commonly used wire, described where they were used, the different color casings, and the thickness of each. The Councilman questioned the details of burning the wire, explaining he encounters fires in encampments near AREA15 and believed this was occurring. MR. NORBY explained when stripping the colored sheath off of the wire, some individuals burn it due to not having a tool to cut it off properly. He said this leaves burn marks on the wire, but the individual would be paid more with the sheath removed.

COUNCILWOMAN ALLEN-PALENSKE confirmed with MR. NORBY that NV Energy used thicker wire and they were also targeted as well. She opined it would be comprehensive to include in the bill the terms copper wire and aluminum wire instead of having such a broad approach due to the impact it could have on local businesses. MR. NORBY explained they removed those terms and added non-ferrous material so the specific material wouldn't matter that was being turned in, as long as it met the requirements. He stated copper wire and

aluminum wire would be the typical wire seen and with the re-wording, it would include all industries and community players. CHIEF POTTS opined the people stealing the wire wouldn't always know the differences between the wires and they would still be targeted.

WARREN HARDY appeared representing SA Recycling and Champion Recycling, and explained the measures they had implemented to stop thieves from selling copper wire and believed the bill would negatively affect people legitimately bringing wire in. He opined people stealing the wire would not want to provide their fingerprints or a driver's license with an address and, therefore, would not be able to sell the wire at these locations. Previously, when a transaction was suspicious, he noted that they provided all information to Metro (Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department). He stated people had begun to sell the wire online and this would push illegal sales to rise in these forums. He agreed to not allowing shopping cart sellers and limiting the sale of 7 strand wire to only a business. He expressed concern about business-to-business transactions having to wait 10 days for payment and regarding the broadness of the definition of wire. He concluded they would like to fix the issues around selling copper wire but in a way that would not negatively affect recycling centers, and he stated he would be willing to meet with staff to define what wire should be included.

MO DENIS appeared representing Las Vegas Recycling, and stated as an industry they were working together, they understood there was a problem and they wanted to be a part of the solution. He opined the ordinance would help to partially slow things down. He said when he spoke with other municipalities they were waiting to see what the City would do in order to be cohesive.

ROBIN DICKENSON advised her business, Construction Notebook, was located 200 feet from Champion Recycling and they had been in the same location since 1982. She explained she had to hire help in order to keep homeless people off of her property that were trying to sell things at the recycling center. She expressed concern for the crimes they are committing while being on her property that interrupt her business. She supported the portion of the ordinance that prohibits people selling items from a shopping cart.

BRADLEY HANOVER owns a maintenance company that assists in cleaning up MS. DICKENSON'S property and he agreed with her statements regarding the homeless in the area selling at the recycling center. He stated nothing had been done to assist her property and business, and he opined people that steal the wire should be prosecuted.

TONY CELESTE appeared on behalf of Fisher Brothers, and he submitted a letter of support, a copy of which was submitted for the record, and thanked the Councilmembers for their time. He thought this was a great first step and encouraged them to continue to look for measures that would further restrict the sale of stolen materials.

COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN asked if ordinances similar to this one had been successful in other cities. MR. NORBY stated they conducted research in other jurisdictions and Denver, Colorado had a similar ordinance.

COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN stated they tried to compromise regarding the business-to-business transactions, and he would take recommendations from staff regarding the definition of wire. He noted he wanted other jurisdictions to be aligned and said when the state legislature makes a decision they would update the ordinance to match.

COUNCILWOMAN ALLEN-PALENSKE expressed concerns regarding the broad definition of wire, stating she didn't want to put operators at an economic disadvantage. She believed the City needed to show a strong front with the ordinance.

COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN declared the Public Hearing closed and announced that this bill would be eligible for adoption at the City Council meeting of September 4, 2024.

Motion made by Brian Knudsen to Approve as Do Pass as a Second Amendment

Passed For: 3; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

For-Victoria Seaman, Brian Knudsen, Francis Allen-Palenske;

6. Bill No. 2024-23 - For possible action - Amends the Lone Mountain Master Development Plan and Design Standards to provide that the use "Animal Hospital, Clinic or Shelter Without Outside Pens" is permitted as a conditional use within the Neighborhood Commercial land use designation. Sponsored by: Councilwoman Francis Allen-Palenske

Minutes:

COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN declared the Public Hearing open.

SETH FLOYD, Community Development Director, explained even though the proposed Ordinance was located in Ward 4, it was now sponsored by staff.

PETER LOWENSTEIN, Deputy Community Development Director, said this bill introduced animal hospitals, clinics, and shelters without outside pens into the Lone Mountain Master Development Plan. He explained it would make it a conditional use, referring to Title 19 C-1 for limited commercial conditional use requirements. He explained the requirements included animals needing to be confined to a closed building at all times, buildings to be designed to provide complete sound barriers and odor protection from adjacent properties, it listed the needs for rooms containing cages, it said the noise levels must comply with Title 7, and stated the percentage of floor area that may be used for the boarding of animals. He noted this was consistent with the RC (Resource Conservation) Zoning District, and he believed it was appropriate in the Lone Mountain Master Plan.

COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN declared the Public Hearing closed and announced that this bill would be eligible for adoption at the City Council meeting of September 4, 2024.

Motion made by Francis Allen-Palenske to Approve as Do Pass

Passed For: 3; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

For-Victoria Seaman, Brian Knudsen, Francis Allen-Palenske;

7. Bill No. 2024-24 - For possible action - Updates fee tables pertaining to fees chargeable under the City's Administrative Code for construction activity, primarily to bring them into line with fees actually being charged, but also to increase certain fees related to annual permits, and authorizes the City Traffic Engineer and the Department of Public Works to designate another department or function to charge and collect fees related to work within public rights-of-way as governed by LVMC 11.50.040 and LVMC Title 13. Proposed by: Joey Paskey, Director of Public Works

Minutes:

COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN declared the Public Hearing open.

SETH FLOYD, Community Development Director, explained the Bill related to the Building and Safety Department and introduced MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM, Deputy Community Development Director, to further report on the proposed bill.

MR. CUNNINGHAM stated the bill had two components including an update to the Enterprise Fee Table and designating an authority to be able to charge fees. He advised they hired a consultant to conduct a fee study a few years ago, and they compared the results to other jurisdictions to decide whether they wanted to increase their fees. He said the fees for various items they do not see often were increased in error with the last report and they wanted to adjust them back down. He provided an overview of the sections that would be effected with the updated fee table. He explained that in 2009 the Land Development Division was moved to the Building and Safety Department, but the designated fee collector was never updated and this bill would do that.

COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN opined MR. CUNNINGHAM did a great job and thanked him for representing the City well.

COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN declared the Public Hearing closed and announced that this bill would be eligible for adoption at the City Council meeting of September 4, 2024.

Motion made by Brian Knudsen to Approve as Do Pass

Passed For: 3; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

For-Victoria Seaman, Brian Knudsen, Francis Allen-Palenske;

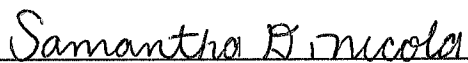
8. Citizens Participation: Public comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters within the jurisdiction of the Recommending Committee. No subject may be acted upon by the Recommending Committee unless that subject is on the agenda and is scheduled for action. If you wish to be 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:  
None.

9. Adjournment

Minutes:  
The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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Samantha DiNicola, Deputy City Clerk

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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](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov)

The Nevada Public Notice website – [notice.nv.gov](http://notice.nv.gov)

City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor