

Southern Nevada Council of Governments
City of Las Vegas Civic Center Building A, 525 S. Main St.
Public Meeting Room
City of Las Vegas Internet Address: www.lasvegasnevada.gov

MINUTES

February 24, 2026

4:00 PM

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN (seated as Chair after Item 5), City of Las Vegas; COMMISSIONER JONES (seated as Vice Chair after Item 5), Clark County; COUNCILWOMAN ALLEN-PALENSKE, City of Las Vegas; COMMISSIONER McCURDY, Clark County; COUNCILMAN STEWART, City of Henderson; COUNCILMAN CHERCHIO, City of North Las Vegas; COUNCILMAN BLACK (excused until 4:05 p.m.), City of North Las Vegas; and COUNCILWOMAN ASHURST (via teleconference and excused at 4:28 p.m.), Boulder City

EXCUSED: COUNCILWOMAN LARSON, City of Henderson

ALSO PRESENT: SETH T. FLOYD (seated as Executive Director after Item 6), Executive Community Development Director; MARCO VELOTTA, Planning Manager; IAN RYNEX, Planner II; BRIANNA PASCUAL-MENDOZA, Agenda Technician; GILLIAN BLOCK-SEGERBLOM, Deputy City Attorney II; and SAMANTHA DINICOLA, Deputy City Clerk

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: Civic Center Building A, 525 South Main Street, 1st Floor; 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. 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. Introduction of Southern Nevada Council of Governments members

Minutes:

SETH T. FLOYD, Executive Community Development Director, introduced the item and asked everyone to introduce themselves and share the jurisdiction they were representing.

Each Member introduced themselves as follows: COUNCILMAN BRIAN KNUDSEN, City of Las Vegas; COMMISSIONER JUSTIN JONES, Clark County; COMMISSIONER WILLIAM McCURDY, Clark County; COUNCILWOMAN FRANCIS ALLEN-PALENSKE, City of Las Vegas; COUNCILWOMAN DENISE ASHURST, Boulder City; COUNCILMAN RICHARD CHERCHIO, City of North Las Vegas; and COUNCILMAN DAN STEWART, City of Henderson.

5. Discussion for possible action regarding the election of Chair and Vice Chair

Minutes:

COUNCILMAN McCURDY nominated COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN as Chair and COMMISSIONER JONES as Vice Chair.

Motion made by William McCurdy II to Approve electing Councilman Brian Knudsen as Chair and Commissioner Justin Jones as Vice Chair

Passed For: 7; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 2

For-Brian Knudsen, Francis Allen-Palenske, Justin Jones, William McCurdy II, Dan Stewart, Richard Cherchio, Denise Ashurst; Excused-Monica Larson, Scott Black;

6. Discussion for possible action regarding the designation of interim staff members for term(s) expiring February 28, 2027

Minutes:

SETH T. FLOYD, Executive Community Development Director, explained that the Interlocal Agreement authorized the nomination of an Executive Director to serve as the primary staff liaison during the first year. CHAIR KNUDSEN stated that the City of Las Vegas had incorporated the potential Executive Director appointment within the City Manager's Office structure. He added that the Council could reevaluate the appointment after the first year and make any necessary adjustments.

CHAIR KNUDSEN nominated MR. FLOYD to serve as Executive Director.

Motion made by Brian Knudsen to Approve designating Seth T. Floyd as Executive Director

Passed For: 7; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 2

For-Brian Knudsen, Francis Allen-Palenske, Justin Jones, William McCurdy II, Dan Stewart, Richard Cherchio, Denise Ashurst; Excused-Monica Larson, Scott Black;

7. Presentation by Seth T. Floyd, Executive Community Development Director for the City of Las Vegas, regarding the purpose and scope of the Southern Nevada Council of Governments

Minutes:

SETH T. FLOYD, Executive Director, utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to explain the history and purpose of the Southern Nevada Council of Governments (SNCOG). He stated that SNCOG is intended to serve as a forum for regional collaboration among member entities and to address issues that extend beyond jurisdictional boundaries.

MR. FLOYD highlighted the challenges Southern Nevada has experienced due to rapid growth and an economy heavily reliant on gaming revenue and tourism. He noted that the region has a population of approximately 2.5 million residents, five national parks within a three-hour drive, and more than 600 miles of mountain biking and hiking trails. MR. FLOYD added that the previous SNRPC (Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition) focused on open space and trail initiatives. He expressed hope that SNCOG could leverage the resources and expertise of its members and agency partners to play a meaningful role in guiding regional growth and development.

MR. FLOYD explained that the Interlocal Agreement outlines three primary commitments: holding meetings at least quarterly, establishing committees as needed, and maintaining a budget. He noted, however, that participating jurisdictions have agreed not to request fiscal contributions during the first year. He outlined the scope and purpose of SNCOG by identifying five core objectives: coordinating, communicating, and cooperating; addressing regional issues; identifying shared needs; providing a forum for ideas and regional collaboration; and advocating for mutual interests. He added that SNCOG offers an opportunity to address regional matters outside certain constraints of state law.

MR. FLOYD reviewed the powers of SNCOG as presented on Slide 8, including the authority to enter into contracts, hire staff, and identify regional programs of interest. He concluded by thanking the staff members who worked on the Interlocal Agreement and those who supported SNCOG's formation.

8. Discussion for possible action to identify one or more matters of regional significance for the 2026 Calendar Year

Minutes:

SETH T. FLOYD, Executive Director, utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, and introduced an icebreaker question to encourage critical thinking in selecting a meaningful project for the Council to undertake during its first year.

CHAIR KNUDSEN stated that this Council was important and that, by working collaboratively, Members could help increase the state and federal funding they receive. He emphasized that regional approaches to childcare, counterterrorism, roadway safety, mental health, and land use are important issues across all jurisdictions. He noted that LVMPD (Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department) was implementing stronger counterterrorism measures and that it would be beneficial to organize regionally. He further advised that incidents of speeding and red-light violations were steadily increasing and that a coordinated approach was needed to address the problem. Lastly, he opined that a unified approach to land use could help secure additional support from the State to benefit Southern Nevada as a whole.

COUNCILMAN STEWART said that his passion was education, both lower and higher education. Although he acknowledged that the topic can be politically charged, it is an issue in which he has been involved for many years, and he expressed a desire to see meaningful improvements to the education system.

COUNCILMAN CHERCHIO agreed with the previously mentioned priorities and added affordable housing as a key focus area. He stated that economic development and attracting businesses that complement family-oriented, affordable housing initiatives could be beneficial. While noting that gaming revenue is significant, he expressed concern about overreliance on a single industry. He emphasized the importance of diversifying the economic base and expanding access to medical services.

COUNCILMAN BLACK shared that he assists with conducting the homeless census tract and sees many of the same individuals experiencing homelessness each year. He suggested that sustained federal program support and continued care initiatives could provide long-term, consistent solutions. He also noted existing restrictions and stated that supportive housing would be a significant step forward.

COUNCILWOMAN ALLEN-PALENSKE identified several meaningful issues she would like the Council to address, including safer streets, traffic safety in school zones, higher-quality education, interjurisdictional cooperation, attainable housing, senior fraud prevention, and making government more supportive of small businesses. She cited a significant increase in children being struck in crosswalks and stressed the importance of expanding opportunities for homeownership.

COMMISSIONER McCURDY echoed the priorities expressed by other Members and added that improved public transit and better street design are also critical community needs.

COMMISSIONER JONES expressed gratitude to those who worked to establish the Council and acknowledged the effort involved. In addition to the topics already discussed, he emphasized the importance of modernizing and diversifying the tax structure.

CHAIR KNUDSEN welcomed the opportunity to collaborate and identify key issues. He clarified that the City of Las Vegas would not act as the sole representative voice of the Council and expressed appreciation for the collective effort to improve Southern Nevada.

COUNCILWOMAN ASHURST stated that investing in youth through mentorship programs is integral to strengthening the community. She highlighted the importance of human trafficking prevention and expressed a commitment to improving conditions for the next generation.

MR. FLOYD said that at the March Council meeting, they would engage in more structured discussions to select one primary focus area for concentrated investment during the upcoming year. He added that he would contact the Council to address any questions to help facilitate topic selection for the next meeting. CHAIR KNUDSEN asked members to consult with their respective organizations to determine whether there were concerns about the Council selecting particular focus areas, noting that the intent was not to interfere with the goals of other

jurisdictions. He added that SNRPC (Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition) traditionally focused on land use but that, with available resources, the Council could broaden its scope to additional topics. MR. FLOYD clarified that the Council's structure provides flexibility to expand its focus without prior constraints and suggested selecting a topic that does not already have a designated review board. COUNCILMAN CHERCHIO recommended choosing a straightforward topic for the first year that would benefit all jurisdictions. MR. FLOYD agreed and stated that staff would distribute a summary of the suggested topics following the meeting to assist the Council in their selection. CHAIR KNUDSEN confirmed with MR. FLOYD that Members may reach out with questions prior to the next meeting.

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: 7; Excused: 2

Did Not Vote-Brian Knudsen, Francis Allen-Palenske, Justin Jones, William McCurdy II, Dan Stewart, Richard Cherchio, Scott Black; Excused-Monica Larson, Denise Ashurst;

9. Discussion for possible action to establish the Southern Nevada Council of Governments Member Staff Standing Committee

Minutes:

SETH T. FLOYD, Executive Director, stated that the previous SNRPC (Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition) included a working staff group as part of its Interlocal Agreement. He explained that the group met between regular meetings to discuss upcoming topics, and he recommended approval of this item.

Following the vote, MR. FLOYD said that he preferred to keep membership on the Staff Standing Committee flexible to allow for adjustments based on varying topics.

Motion made by Brian Knudsen to Approve establishing the Jurisdictional Staff Standing Committee

NOTE: The video does not reflect the vote accurately, in that Councilwoman Denise Ashurst was excused.

Passed For: 7; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 2

For-Brian Knudsen, Francis Allen-Palenske, Justin Jones, William McCurdy II, Dan Stewart, Richard Cherchio, Scott Black; Excused-Monica Larson, Denise Ashurst;

10. Discussion for possible action to approve the Southern Nevada Council of Governments Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Minutes:

SETH T. FLOYD, Executive Director, explained that the budget was currently at zero dollars, and CHAIR KNUDSEN confirmed that the City of Las Vegas would track the time and staff resources dedicated to the Council.

Following the vote, COUNCILMAN STEWART expressed appreciation for tracking the time spent on Council-related work. He recalled the commitment made by the prior coalition and emphasized the importance of documenting resources the City of Las Vegas is investing in this effort. CHAIR KNUDSEN added that he hoped, by the end of the year, they would be able to justify the commitment and demonstrate that it generated growth and investment.

Motion made by Justin Jones to Approve

NOTE: The video does not reflect the vote accurately, in that Councilwoman Denise Ashurst was excused.

Passed For: 7; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 2

For-Brian Knudsen, Francis Allen-Palenske, Justin Jones, William McCurdy II, Dan Stewart, Richard Cherchio, Scott Black; Excused-Monica Larson, Denise Ashurst;

11. Discussion for possible action regarding the 2026 Southern Nevada Council of Governments Meeting Schedule

Minutes:

SETH T. FLOYD, Executive Director, displayed the proposed meeting schedule on the overhead screen, and CHAIR KNUDSEN confirmed that the meetings would be held in the Public Meeting Room at the Civic Plaza. There were no objections from the Council.

Motion made by Dan Stewart to Approve

NOTE: The video does not reflect the vote accurately, in that Councilwoman Denise Ashurst was excused.

Passed For: 7; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 2

For-Brian Knudsen, Francis Allen-Palenske, Justin Jones, William McCurdy II, Dan Stewart, Richard Cherchio, Scott Black; Excused-Monica Larson, Denise Ashurst;

12. **Citizens Participation:** Public comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters within the jurisdiction of the Council. No subject may be acted upon by the Council unless that subject is on the agenda and is scheduled for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward 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.

13. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Samantha DiNicola, Deputy City Clerk


Brianna Pascual-Mendoza, Secretary

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

Civic Center building A, 525 South Main Street, 1st Floor

City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor