

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

SS July 26, 2011

The City Council of the City of Elko, State of Nevada met for a special meeting beginning at 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 26, 2011.

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

Mayor Present: Chris J. Johnson

Council Present: Councilman Jim Conner arrived @ 3:50 p.m.  
Councilman Jay Elquist arrived @ 3:35 pm  
Councilman Richard Perry  
Councilman John Rice

City Staff Present: Curtis Calder, City Manager  
Delmo Andreozzi, Assistant City Manager  
Don Zumwalt, Police Chief  
Mike Hecht, Acting Fire Chief/Fire Marshal  
Dennis Strickland, Public Works Director  
Eric Howes, Parks and Recreation Director  
James Wiley Park Superintendent  
Scott Wilkinson, Development Manager  
Jeremy Draper, Civil Engineer  
Linda Buffington, Recording Secretary

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 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**

Mayor Chris Johnson advised the goal of this workshop is to review and decide whether or not we want to have a Mission and Vision Statement as has been posted in the Council Chambers for years.

Mayor Johnson believed a review of the City Charter would be a good resource and starting point.

Mayor Johnson welcomed comments from the Council or Staff.

Councilman Rice indicated after reading through the documents it was more about authority. He didn't see anything that helped him to think about some direction for a

mission statement. However, it is very informative in terms of the authority it provides to us.

Mayor Johnson directed the Council's attention to the City Charter, Section 1.010 Preamble, a portion of which read;1) *In order to provide for the orderly government of the City of Elko and the general welfare of its citizens the legislature hereby establishes this charter for the government of the City of Elko.* Mayor Johnson believed that was a condensed version of a mission of the City of Elko government. All the rest is how are you going to get that done; which is the vision and all the supporting documents that follows with the charter. If you take that sentence and go back to the current Mission Statement you see words in there that are for the general welfare of the citizens. Mayor Johnson advised the current mission statement is within the charter if you look at it from that direction.

Mayor Johnson advised he could not find a lot in the charter that said mission but the mission should be pretty straight forward. He did like the comments of orderly government and general welfare and believed that is really the mission.

*Councilman Elquist arrived.*

Councilman Rice agreed with Mayor Johnson and commented one of the things about mission statements is that they can cover everything in general and nothing in particular. They don't really give you enough guidance. Councilman Rice noted one of the things he saw in the current mission statement was; economic opportunity through economic diversification. He kept going back to what Councilman Elquist has said in the past; our core functions. Taking care of those core functions is what creates a community that is attractive to economic diversification, business interest and people who just want to live here because it is a great town.

Councilman Rice commented as he worked on various statements, he kept coming back to the core functions of health, safety, transportation, and recreation. Focusing on those things and making sure those core functions are addressed is really what the Council does at the meetings. At times, we go off into a place that is not our function when we talk about offering economic opportunity through economic diversification. We are here to create, focus on the core functions that create a place that fosters that so that groups like ECEDA and the Chamber of Commerce are able to say; "look what our city does; we have this really sound infrastructure, we have great parks, we have great transportation".

Councilman Rice advised he would like the Council to look at those core functions as we draft this mission statement.

Mayor Johnson noted today's workshop is listed for possible action; at the end of this discussion the decision can be made to support our current mission statement or not; it would be a step to get this moving forward.

Mayor Johnson believed the charter has the basis; to provide an orderly government and the general welfare of its citizens; that is our mission. The current mission alludes to that

somewhat but goes over when he talks about economic diversification; that isn't the City's mission.

Councilman Rice believed a mission statement ought to be actionable. With every decision we make we should be able to say; does this support our mission?

Councilman Perry read the definition of mission statement from Wikipedia; *“the mission statement should guide the actions of the organization, spell out its overall goal, provide a sense of direction and guide decision making. It provides “the framework for context within which the company’s strategies are formulated”. The vision and mission statements are often confused with one another; and some organizations even use them interchangeably. In simplest terms; the mission is the organization’s reason for existence and vision is what it wants to be.*

Councilman Perry stated he wasn't convinced we need a vision statement; yet. Councilman Perry commented he began with the current mission statement and crossed out words and phrases. Councilman Perry handed out the results as a place to start; he noted some of it is borrowed from various places and includes things the Council has mentioned; it also reflects some of what Councilman Elquist has said about what are the true responsibilities of the City?

Councilman Perry read what he had at this point: “The mission of the City Council, Staff and volunteers of the City of Elko is to provide for our citizens a safe, clean and organized community.”

Councilman Perry commented he was specific there with “what is the mission”; in one sense is it the mission of the City or is it the mission of the people who are involved with those things that make the City run. He wasn't sure. He asked himself; who is the City; it is the City Council, it is the City Staff and it is the volunteers that are all involved.

Councilman Perry continued with his reading; “supports and nurtures business activity through a responsive, transparent and financially sound city government. The City is responsible for providing safety through our police and fire departments and services to citizens through the water, sewer, road, landfill, airport, animal shelter, planning and development and the parks and recreation departments and administrative services.”

Councilman Perry indicated maybe what he had was too much but it does really focus on what are the functions of the City? There are a lot of people out there that don't realize what the City does in many respects and what services are City services.

Continuing on with reading Councilman Perry read; “Citizens, stakeholders, and City employees will be treated with respect. We will strive to serve our citizens with quality services, encourage citizen involvement and volunteerism, reward Staff for superior service and celebrate our City's accomplishments.”

Development Manager Wilkinson stated his belief that planning is a very important component.

Councilman Elquist believed a mission is tied to something. It was his hope that as the mission statement is discussed it can set priorities for the budget. Maybe that should be included in there; we are playing with people's money and tax dollars; we want to get the highest and best possible use for those dollars. Not only the dollars but the time and limited resources we have from our Staff. Councilman Elquist stated he does like the discussion; specifically the big topics i.e. planning, safety, transportation and recreation. Councilman Elquist believed the best way to help a family or business succeed is to provide a good framework.

Mayor Johnson advised the charter does qualify what are the powers of the City or the City Council; it defines the role of government.

Councilman Elquist expressed the hope that we come up with something that will eventually drive some of our budgeting discussions.

Councilman Rice also presented a handout of his work on the mission and vision statements which touched on many of the same items as Councilman Perry.

Councilman Rice agreed with Mr. Wilkinson regarding planning. It is extremely important because development is what we do; as a City we grow. In order to pay for things we need to grow in a smart way.

Mayor Johnson was unsure there was enough support to continue with the current Mission Statement. We do have option of deciding if we want to keep it posted until we come up with a new one; if we want to take that move or do we want to take what has been submitted here and plan another discussion at the next Council Meeting.

Mayor Johnson questioned the Council on what the next step should be.

Mayor Johnson commented there does not appear to be much support for the Vision Statement; he agreed that perhaps we just need the Mission Statement. Mayor Johnson questioned whether we wanted to have a posted Mission Statement.

Councilman Perry commented most government entities do have one; many times they are on their web page. Councilman Perry was supportive of new a Mission Statement and believed we should leave the current one up until we have a new one.

Councilman Perry questioned how we take the next step; maybe we all try to 'cobble' one together for the next workshop.

Councilman Rice indicated he was willing to sit down with another Council Member; take the ideas presented today and "cobble" out a draft for presentation. This is a process that could take a long time or a process that doesn't have to.

Mayor Johnson expressed the hope there would be something at the next meeting.

Councilman Rice believed there could be a draft and a proposal of how to move from there.

Mayor Johnson believed that was doable.

*Councilman Conner arrived.*

**\*\* A motion was made by Councilman Rice, seconded by Councilman Perry to appoint himself and one other Councilman to meet prior to the next meeting and 'cobble' out a draft statement for consideration by the full Council along with a recommendation as to the Council's action that draft statement.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

After the motion and before a vote was taken Councilman Conner commented that it is important we have a Mission Statement that tells us what our goals are and what we see for the future of Elko.

Mayor Johnson questioned whether the motion included that at the next workshop if the Council likes the draft they can vote on it at that time.

Councilman Rice advised it did; they will have recommendations for consideration.

Councilman Elquist believed the Mission will be message not only to the Council but also all department heads, the City Manager; it should align dollars and resources but it should also align their actions in the way they manage at some level; do we want to get some feedback from Staff.

City Manager Calder advised starting with a draft, flush that out; it will either lead to approval or we will realize it needs more work and we can get more comment.

Councilman Elquist encouraged those working on the draft statement to reach out for some feedback.

Councilman Rice assured the Council there will be input from Staff.

Councilman Conner believed there also needs to be vision for future possibilities; something we need to work at to achieve.

Mayor Johnson called for public comment and there was none.

Mayor Johnson advised the next workshop will be held before the next City Council meeting and will begin at 3:30 p.m. for further discussion on the Mission Statement.

Councilman Rice indicated he would like to work with Councilman Perry on the draft.

Councilman Perry was agreeable.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Mayor Chris J. Johnson

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Shanell Owen, City Clerk