



Regular Washoe Tribal Council Meeting Minutes  
March 11, 2016  
Stewart Community

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Presiding Officer: Neil Mortimer, Chairman

Call to order: 6:03 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

**Council Members Present**

Neil Mortimer, Chairman	Jeremy Steele, Off Reservation
Gary Nevers, Carson Colony	Lorraine Keller, Reno/Sparks Indian Colony
Chad Malone, Carson Colony	Jacqueline Steele, Stewart Community
Lisa Christensen, Dresslerville Community	Stan Smokey, Stewart Community
Rueben Vasquez, Dresslerville Community	Irvin Jim, Woodfords Community (arrival 6:10 p.m.)
Mahlon Machado, Off Reservation	Deirdre Flood, Woodfords Community

Rob Beltramo, acting meeting secretary, confirms quorum.

**C. READING OF THE AGENDA:** Chairman Mortimer

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** January 29, 2016. Motion to approve the minutes of the January 29<sup>th</sup> Tribal Council meeting made by Jacqueline Steele, Stewart Community, seconded by Gary Nevers, Carson Colony. **The vote was (8) for, (0) against, (3) abstentions. Motion carries.**

**E. OLD BUSINESS**

**1) Craig Burnside, Carson Valley Conservation District**

a) Update on the Clearing and Snagging Project for restoration, flood mitigation and bank stabilization on the East Fork of the Carson River on Tribal trust land, with Norm Harry, Washoe Environment Department Director. Mr. Burnside provided the Council with a handout of seven photographs showing vegetation mastication and debris removal being conducted by CVCD's contractor Crockett Enterprises.

**2) Jeanne Mortimer, Assistant Counsel**

a) Cobell Land Buy-Back Program Resolution. Mrs. Mortimer reviewed the purpose and benefits of the land consolidation program and the Tribe's letter of interest. Motion to approve the resolution by Stan Smokey, Stewart Community, seconded by Chad

Malone, Carson Colony. The vote was (11) for, (0) against, (1) abstention. Motion carries.

## F. NEW BUSINESS

### 1) Chris Strobbe, General Manager

a) Personal Introduction, Casino Update – Mr. Strobbe gave the Council a personal and professional overview, including his experience opening and successfully operating casinos. He provided the Council with two handouts – (i) Gilbane Building Company's March 11<sup>th</sup> "Field Progress Report" of construction activities at the casino site with photographs and (ii) a flyer for the casino job fair for Washoe Tribal members only to be held on April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Douglas County Community and Senior Center in Gardnerville – and reviewed them with Council. Chairman Mortimer and the Council formally welcomed Mr. Strobbe and expressed their appreciation for the positive working relationship he has developed with the Tribe.

### 2) Debby Carlson, Grants Manager

a) Grant Resolution for Communities Addressing Childhood Trauma – Motion to approve the resolution made by Lorraine Keller, Reno/Sparks Indian Colony, seconded by Irvin Jim, Woodfords Community. The vote was (10) for, (0) against, (1) abstention. Motion carries.

### 3) Nancy Nizankiewicz, Interim WHA Director

a) 2015 HUD Annual Performance Report Presentation – Ms. Nizankiewicz provided the Council with two handouts – (i) "Washoe Housing Authority 2015 Indian Housing Plan Project vs 2015 Annual Performance Report Comparison" and (ii) "Woodfords LIHTC Project Update" – and reviewed them with Council.

The Council then broke for dinner, with a prayer offered by Chad Malone, Carson Colony, and a birthday cake presented to Lisa Christensen, Dresslerville Community. Jacqueline Steele, Stewart Community, expressed appreciation to Branden Nevers for the great job preparing and serving the delicious meal, which the Tribal Council and the meeting attendees acknowledged with applause.

### 4) Norm Harry, Environmental Director

a) FY16 Emergency Management Performance Grant – Motion to approve the resolution made by Stan Smokey, Stewart Community, seconded by Gary Nevers, Carson Colony. The vote was (10) for, (0) against, (2) abstentions. Motion carries.

b) EPA Clean Water Act (Section 106) – Motion to approve the resolution made by Irvin Jim, Woodfords Community, seconded by Jacqueline Steele, Stewart Community. The vote was (11) for, (0) against, (1) abstention. Motion carries.

## G. COMMUNITY AND CHAIRMAN REPORT(S)

### 1) Carson Colony – two resolutions

a) Chairman Nevers read Resolution No. 03-CC-01 appointing Valerie Nevers as alternate for Chad Malone to the Washoe Housing Authority Board of Commissioners – Motion to approve the appointment made by Irvin Jim, Woodfords Community,

seconded by Jeremy Steele, Off Reservation. The vote was (8) for, (0) against, (4) abstentions. Motion carries.

b) Chairman Nevers read Resolution No. 03-CC-03 appointing Bernadette Nieto as a representative to the Constitution Committee. The Tribal Council reviewed the process to be followed for filling the seven vacancies on the Constitution Committee – letters of interest to be submitted to the Tribe, with the Tribal Council planning to consider Tribal members who submit letters at the Council's regularly-scheduled April meeting based on identified criteria including Tribal enrollment, experience, education, knowledge of Tribal Constitution and Tribal leadership. The Council encouraged Ms. Nieto to submit her letter of interest to the Tribe. Chairman Nevers asked for the Council to consider Ms. Nieto for immediate appointment. Motion to deny the immediate appointment of Ms. Nieto made by Rueben Vasquez, Dresslerville Community, seconded by Jeremy Steele, Off Reservation. The vote was (8) for, (0) against, (4) abstentions. Motion carries.

**2) Dresslerville Community – no action items.**

a) Chairwoman Christensen thanked Stewart Community for hosting the February Tribal Council meeting and reported that remediation work should be starting on the Dresslerville Gym over the next few weeks. She reported that the Dresslerville Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.

**3) Off Reservation – no action items.**

a) Councilman Steele highlighted the availability of Blue Jay Wireless's free lifeline phone program for qualified Tribal members in both Nevada and California, and the offer of Blue Jay's Program Manager Courtney Hatch to present to Tribal Council.

b) Councilman Machado reported on the progress being made on the Off-Reservation website.

**4) Reno/Sparks Indian Colony – no action items.**

a) Councilwoman Keller said she had some concerns that she has expressed to Chairman Mortimer.

**5) Stewart Community – one resolution.**

a) Chairwoman Steele read Stewart Community Council Resolution No. 16-002 appointing Alex Barr to the Washoe Tribal Burial Committee – Motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Barr made by Gary Nevers, Carson Colony, seconded by Deirdre Flood, Woodfords Community. The vote was (10) for, (0) against, (2) abstentions. Motion carries. The Council then considered two other Tribal members who had submitted letters of interest to serve on the Burial Committee and approved the appointments of Jon Flint – (9) for, (2) against, (1) abstention – and Daniel Christensen – (10) for, (1) against, (1) abstention – to serve on the Washoe Tribal Burial Committee.

b) Chairwoman Steele reported that the Stewart Community Easter Egg Hunt would be held on March 26<sup>th</sup> and that Sherry Rupert of the Nevada Indian Commission is coordinating a work team of UNLV students to assist in the cleanup of the Tribal cemeteries and the vacant church grounds in the Stewart Community over Spring break.

**6) Woodfords Community – no action items.**

a) Chairman Jim reported that the Hung A Lel Ti Community will be holding their Easter events on March 26<sup>th</sup> and that the Community holds its Elder lunches on the last Thursday of each month.

**Chairman's Report**

a) Chairman Mortimer introduced General Counsel Lynelle Hartway to provide Council with a briefing on a Douglas County/Clear Creek Partners waterline project being constructed on Jacks Valley Road. Ms. Hartway gave the Council an overview of the project, the communication from and with Douglas County to date, the proposed grant of easement for right-of-way to construct the pipeline on Tribal trust land the County is seeking, possible consideration to the Tribe for the grant (including a water line from the pipeline to serve the Tribe's parcel, stubbing out connections for future use by the Tribe, and waiver of any fees for annexation and connection) and limiting the grant to a term of X number of years. Ms. Hartway asked the Council for its direction and guidance on whether it is interested in principle in the negotiation, anticipating that if the Council approved, Ms. Hartway would come back to the Council with a proposed agreement, survey drawings and maps at the Council's April meeting. The Chairman called for a consensus for Ms. Hartway to move forward with negotiations with the County – **the vote was (9) for, (2) against, (1) abstention.** Councilwoman Keller explained that she voted against moving forward with negotiations with the County without first obtaining input from the Communities and Tribal members; Councilman Machado explained his vote against the negotiation based on his opposition to negotiating with the County.

b) Chairman Mortimer introduced a recommendation by the Elder Advisory Council to appoint Vernon Wyatt as its representative on the Health Advisory Council. The Council discussed the recommendation and several factors for consideration, including a letter of support for the appointment from the Clinic Director, a provision in the HAC bylaws prohibiting service on the HAC by an immediate family member of an employee of the Clinic, and the possibility of the HAC amending its bylaws. Chairman Nevers asked the Council to approve the recommended appointment of Mr. Wyatt to the HAC – the Council voted **(1) for, (8) against, (3) abstentions** on the approval of the appointment.

c) Chairman Mortimer updated the Council on progress in the operation of the Travel Plaza, including the grand opening currently being planned for March 25<sup>th</sup>.

d) Chairman Mortimer updated the Council on the transition of the Washoe Utility Management Authority to implement Council's direction from early February for WUMA to provide water and sewer service to Tribal members on a no-charge basis. The Council discussed one consequence of the transition – that some non-Tribal member residents in the Communities are also experiencing the benefits of the no-charge policy – and whether this was in keeping with the Council's intention of providing service to Tribal members at no charge. The Council voted **(10) for, (0) against, (2) abstentions** to further consider the policy and this consequence.

e) Vice Chairwoman Flood reported on activities during the time she was sitting in for Chairman, including the transition of the Tribal Historical Preservation Officer/Cultural Resources Officer out of the Washoe Native TANF Program and the physical relocation of the THPO/CRO office to Tribal Headquarters. Vice Chairwoman Flood also reported

on the very positive reception of the illustrated Washoe story books in the Wašiw language and the sale of the books as a source of revenue to support cultural programs and events like the Ancestral Hike and the Pine Nut Run.

f) Chairman Mortimer, Councilman Vasquez and Councilman Machado reported on progress at the Meeks Bay Resort, including the interviewing of candidates and selection of the Resort Manager and the planned transition to the Washoe Retail Enterprises compensation levels for employees.

g) Chairman Mortimer reported on his quarterly Government to Government Coordination meeting with the California Tahoe Conservancy on February 29<sup>th</sup>, including the Conservancy's potential acquisition of a four-acre parcel on the Upper Truckee River along US50 and possible dedication of the site to the Tribe for a Washoe cultural center.

#### **H. CLOSED SESSION**

Motion to convene in closed session made by Chad Malone, Carson Colony, seconded by Irvin Jim, Woodfords Community. **The vote was (11) for, (0) against, (1) abstention. Motion carries.**

#### **G. Adjournment**

**10:15 PM**