

**CARLIN CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CARLIN, STATE OF NEVADA
REGULAR MEETING
CARLIN MUNICIPAL COURT ROOM
101 SOUTH EIGHTH STREET
CARLIN, NEVADA**

**April 25, 2018
7:00 P.M.**

Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Dana Holbrook called the meeting of the Carlin City Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council Members Present:

Mayor Dana Holbrook
Vice Mayor Lincoln Litchfield
Councilperson Margaret Johnston
Councilperson Pam Griswold

Council Members Absent:

None

Staff:

LaDawn Lawson, City Clerk
Roger Curry, Carlin Fire Department Assistant Chief

Public:

Nathan Hornback
Cameron Kinney
Kathy McHan, DCFS
Brandy Holbrook, DCFS
Ashley Biehl
Rebecca Savala, DCFS
Andrew Mierins, Fourth Judicial District Court
Fred Montes de Oca

Pledge of Allegiance

1. **Comment by the General Public: Pursuant to NRS 241.020(2)(D)(3)(I & II) this time is devoted to comments by the general public and possible discussion of those comments. No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item until the matter has been included on a successive agenda pursuant to the**

required procedures at the discretion of the City in accordance with applicable law and identified as an action item. (Non - Action Item).

- a. Assistant Chief Roger Curry stated he noticed that the process to hire people for the City is a long, drawn out, extended process and the City has not been able to hire folks in a timely matter and he feels it needs to be addressed. Councilperson Pam Griswold asked if the Fire Department position has been filled. Roger Curry stated the offer letter has not been sent because they do not have a wage for the part-time employee. Councilperson Griswold asked if that was something that LaDawn or Heather could do. LaDawn Lawson stated the City Manager usually does that and the Department Heads do not do that. Councilperson Pam Griswold told Roger Curry that they would get it taken care of.

2. **City Council Members Reports:
(Non - Action Item)**

- a. Mayor Dana Holbrook stated Sabra Esparza had resigned from the City Council and he directed David Jones to post that opening and they would try to appoint the new councilperson at the next meeting. Mayor Holbrook further stated that he would serve as the liaison with the Fire Department until the seat can be filled.

3. **Public Comment may be taken prior to any Action Being Taken by the Council: Review and discussion and possible approval of grant from ADSD in the amount of \$3,782.00 for a new cooking range, for the Carlin Senior Center with the match being contributed to the City by the Senior Center Participant's Board, and all matters related thereto. (Possible Action Item).**

- a. Councilperson Pam Griswold stated it is through the Aging and Disability and the cooking range they have is twenty years old. Councilperson Griswold stated the money must be spent by the end of June and Ella was ready to spend it.

Councilperson Pam Griswold made a motion to approve accepting the grant from ADSD in the amount of \$3,782.00 for a new cooking range, for the Carlin Senior Center with the match being contributed to the City by the Senior Center Participant's Board, and all matters related thereto. Vice Mayor Lincoln Litchfield seconded the motion. The motion passed.

4. **Public Comment may be taken prior to any Action Being Taken by the Council: Review and discussion of a presentation from Division of Child and Family Services and partners on the state of child welfare in the Carlin and Elko County and the great need for foster families in the Carlin area so that children that are removed have the chance to stay in foster homes locally instead of traveling across the state, and all matters related thereto. (Non-Action Item).**

- a. Mayor Dana Holbrook stated he would move Agenda Item #4 back and they would first address Agenda Item #5.

5. **Public Comment maybe taken prior to any Action Being Taken by the Council: Review, discussion, and possible approval of and direction to staff to proceed to seek an Interim City Manager, the procedure and selection process, and all matters related thereto. (Possible Action Item).**
- a. Mayor Dana Holbrook stated they would be having a Special Meeting the following night but he wanted everyone to start thinking about how to fill the position of City Manager for the interim. Mayor Holbrook stated the people he approached about taking the position on were not interested.
 - b. Councilperson Pam Griswold stated she does not like having an interim and she doesn't think they can find anyone with the knowledge. Councilperson Griswold further stated that an interim can do more harm than not and hopefully they can do without.
 - c. Councilperson Margaret Johnston stated she thinks there are people out there that would step up and she thinks it could take a while to hire a new manager.
 - d. Vice Mayor Lincoln Litchfield stated there is a learning curve but expecting LaDawn to take on a lot of those responsibilities isn't fair and he thinks there is someone out there that may have that experience.
 - e. Mayor Holbrook stated if they do not fill it then they as a Council will have to take up the slack but that if they can that would be good.
 - f. Cameron Kinney stated he agrees with Lincoln and Margaret on the fact that filling that position would be good and if they put all that weight on other people they may have the same problems that they would with an interim. Cameron Kinney stated if you have an interim then it would help out.

Councilperson Pam Griswold made a motion to table the item until tomorrow night or the next evening. Councilperson Margaret Johnston seconded the motion. The motion passed.

6. **Public Comment may be taken prior to any Action Being Taken by the Council: Review, discussion, and possible approval of the minutes from 3/28/2018 and all related matters thereto. (Possible Action Item).**

Councilperson Pam Griswold made a motion to approve the minutes from 3/28/2018 and all related matters thereto. Vice Mayor Lincoln Litchfield seconded the motion. The motion passed.

7. **Public Comment maybe taken prior to any Discussion Being Taken by the Council: Review, discussion and possible approval of City expenditures for the period 4/7/2018 to 4/20/2018 and all related matters thereto. (Possible Action Item).**

Vice Mayor Lincoln Litchfield made a motion to approve the City expenditures for the period 4/7/2018 to 4/20/2018 and all related matters thereto. Councilperson Margaret Johnston seconded the motion. The motion passed.

8. **Public Comment may be taken prior to any Action Being Taken by the Council: Review and discussion of a presentation from Division of Child and Family Services and partners on the state of child welfare in the Carlin and Elko County and the great need for foster families in the Carlin area so that children that are removed have the chance to stay in foster homes locally instead of traveling across the state, and all matters related thereto. (Non-Action Item).**
- a. Brandy Holbrook stated she is the Social Service Manager with Division of Child and Family Services and further stated that there are children in need of a host or foster home when their homes are no longer safe. Brandy Holbrook stated there are currently no foster homes in Carlin.
 - b. Vice Mayor Lincoln Litchfield asked if there are no homes because no one applied or no one qualified. Brandy Holbrook stated it could be because of a multitude of reasons but that she is not aware of any current applications.
 - c. Brandy Holbrook further explained that they are looking for an emergency foster home in Carlin.
 - d. Rebecca Savala stated there is currently one person who wants to become a licensed home in Carlin and she has been working for DCFS about 2 years. Rebecca Savala stated the process to become a foster home includes an initial inquiry, fingerprinting, attendance at foster parent training, completion of an application, home inspection, and an intensive home study. Rebecca Savala stated it is a lengthy process but they need to make sure the foster homes are safe for the children. Rebecca Savala stated there are 21 homes in Elko County but some are for specific children, some for children that are being adopted, and the rest are foster homes. Rebecca Savala stated most the homes are in Elko or Spring Creek and most of those are full.
 - e. Ashley Beal stated she is the attorney for the children and she represents about 70 children. Ashley Beal stated she has worked in larger cities and the rural community has unique challenges including sibling groups being split up because of lack of possible placements. Ashley Beal stated currently there are no homes in Elko County that will accept kids over the age of 10.
 - f. Nathan Hornback stated he is a foster parent in Elko and it happened accidentally when a 4 week old baby girl was dropped on his porch and they chose to raise her. Nathan Hornback stated they are currently adopting her but they have chosen to remain foster parents for others because they want to help the children. Nathan Hornback stated that there are challenges to being foster parents but they feel the benefits are greater than the hardships. Nathan Hornback stated he is calling people to love without motivation.
 - g. Andy Mierins, the 4th Judicial District Court Master, stated child cases mean a lot to him and the victimization of the children first by their parents and then

by the community is a real crisis. Andy Mierins stated he is asking them as leaders of the community to encourage the community to step up. Andy Mierins stated there are children in Carlin who are not able to stay in their hometown because there is no where for them to go. Andy Mierins stated he knows that there has been past problems between foster families and DCFS but now that Brandy Holbrook has taken over things are a lot better.

- h. Mayor Dana Holbrook asked if a single parent is eligible. Rebecca Savala stated you can be in any relationship and you can rent or own your home. Rebecca Savala stated they even need respite homes for other foster families. Rebecca Savala stated the age restriction is 21 to one's abilities as they get older.
- i. Councilperson Margaret Johnston asked if they had some pamphlets they can get out to the community. Rebecca Savala stated they will get some.
- j. Councilperson Pam Griswold asked if there is an average age for the kids. Brandy Holbrook stated there is no average. Ashley Beal stated there are more problems placing older children.
- k. Brandy Holbrook stated neglect maltreatment is the most common reason that brings children into the system. Brandy Holbrook stated anyone can report child abuse but there are mandated reporters by law. Andy Mierins stated that common underlying factors of removal are substance abuse or untreated mental illness.
- l. Nathan Hornback stated they need to change the story telling about foster parenting. Nathan Hornback stated he understands there are those rare cases where foster parenting does not go well but those are a minority.
- m. Andy Mierins discussed the process of removal of children. Vice Mayor Lincoln Litchfield asked if at the age of 18 the children are aged out. Brandy Holbrook stated the child has a choice to go on with their life or to have their court case stay open without DCFS involvement but with continuing financial assistance until the age of 21.
- n. Vice Mayor Lincoln Litchfield asked if Nathan Hornback has a support group available for foster parents. Nathan Hornback said they do not but he would like to start one. Kathy McHan stated she is a foster parent in Osino and they are trying to start a foster support group but they have a Facebook page and they can call each other for support. Kathy McHan stated she now works for DCFS to spread the word and provide support.
- o. Brandy Holbrook stated their panel group is willing to go to group events in order to help raise awareness.
- p. Councilperson Pam Griswold asked how many times a child will be removed before the court says it is enough. Brandy Holbrook stated the children want to go home and so they do their best to help families safely parent their children.
- q. Councilperson Pam Griswold asked if they have visited the local churches. Kathy McHan stated she is working on it. Brandy Holbrook stated they are asking them to let them know where they can increase awareness.

(Non Action Item)

9. **Public Comment** maybe taken prior to any Discussion Being Taken by the Council: **Comment by the General Public:** Pursuant to NRS 241.020(2)(D)(3)(I & II) this time is devoted to comments by the general public and possible discussion of those comments. No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item until the matter has been included on a successive agenda pursuant to the required procedures at the discretion of the City in accordance with applicable law and identified as an action item. (Non - Action Item).

There were no comments by the general public.

10. **Adjournment.**
(Possible Action Item)

Vice Mayor Lincoln Litchfield made a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Margaret Johnston seconded the motion. Mayor Dana Holbrook adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Approved:

Attest:



Mayor Dana Holbrook



City Clerk LaDawn Lawson