

**MINUTES  
CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS  
VETERANS COMMUNITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

February 23, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER**

5:00 PM, Council Chambers, 2250 Las Vegas Boulevard North,  
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030

**ROLL CALL**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Commissioner Hudson  
Commissioner Kelly  
Commissioner Holcomb  
Commissioner Jenkins

**STAFF PRESENT**

Chief of Staff Rebecca Gipson  
Deputy City Attorney II Chris Craft  
Community Services and Engagement Director Serafin Calvo  
City Clerk Jackie Rodgers  
Deputy City Clerk Daisy Rivera  
Deputy City Clerk/Recording Secretary Justine McDowell  
Councilwoman Pamela Goynes-Brown

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - BY INVITATION**

Chief of Staff Rebecca Gipson

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Councilwoman Pamela Goynes-Brown

Councilwoman Pamela Goynes-Brown welcomed each commission member of the Committee and thanked the Committee for their willingness to participate and stated it is needed in the community. She said she thought what the Committee does for veterans will set the bar high and that they will be able to assist so many veterans in the community. She stated on behalf of herself, Mayor Lee and City Council, they have open-door policies and that should the committee have any needs, they should not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**1. SELECT AND APPROVE NOMINATION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)**

ACTION: ELECTED MICHAEL KELLY AS CHAIRPERSON

MOTION: Commissioner Hudson

AYES: Commissioner Jenkins, Commissioners Kelly, Holcomb

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Vega

**2. SELECT AND APPROVE NOMINATION OF COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIRPERSON. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)**

ACTION: ELECTED MARIE HOLCOMB AS VICE-CHAIRPERSON

MOTION: Commissioner Hudson

AYES: Commissioner Jenkins, Chairperson Kelly, Commissioner Holcomb

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Vega

**AGENDA**

**3. APPROVE VETERANS COMMUNITY COMMISSION AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 23, 2022. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)**

ACTION: APPROVED

MOTION: Commissioner Jenkins

AYES: Commissioner Hudson, Chairperson Kelly, Vice-Chairperson Holcomb

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Vega

## **BUSINESS**

### **4. PRESENTATION BY CHRIS CRAFT, DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY, REGARDING THE OPEN MEETING LAW. (FOR DISCUSSION ONLY)**

Deputy City Attorney Chris Craft provided the Open Meeting Law (OML) presentation. He stated that the OML was enacted in order to ensure that the actions and deliberations of public bodies are conducted openly. He provided the definition of a quorum for the Board, explained the criteria that invokes OML requirements, defined the deliberative process, and explained agenda requirements, as defined by the OML. He shared when the OML is not invoked and illustrated how a walking quorum is a violation of the OML. He provided three example cases where the OML may have been violated, provided background information and why some of the courts held were violations and which were not considered violations. He stated the Committee could reach out to him to ask if they were crossing a line and he would be happy to tell them yes or no. He stated he is at the disposal of the committee and wished them good luck.

### **5. DISCUSS, DEVELOP AND APPROVE A STRATEGIC PLAN. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)**

Chairperson Kelly asked if the strategic plan had to be limited toward the bylaws and if they had to come to a decision the date of the meeting. Chief of Staff Rebecca Gipson stated it was a discussion for the date of the meeting and if they did take action the date of the meeting, they did put it as for possible action. Chairperson Kelly stated one of the things that he had seen with the previous commission was that they did not have a clear plan of action due to a sense of disorganization. He said he thought all of them knew what they needed to do. He stated he would like to see each meeting focus on a specific issue for discussion and devise a plan in the long term on how they could improve the condition for veterans in North Las Vegas based on one specific issue. He provided an example of wellness and posed the question of how the committee could make life better for veterans in North Las Vegas when it came to wellness. He added he would like some ideas and discussion from the committee regarding long term goals.

Commissioner Hudson said he noticed that the committee had a lot of strengths. He stated they have someone who works with the benefits side of the house who knew the strife veterans go through which is not necessarily mental health/medical related. Commissioner Hudson stated he worked with the community and a lot of the mental health aspects and issues should be condensed into subtopics.

Commissioner Jenkins stated he agreed with Commissioner Hudson and added the commission had some history it needed to examine as to what had been successful in order to progress. He stated he remained cautious about duplicating some of the services already in place. He said as they went forward, he would like them to consider what had worked and start there. Commissioner Jenkins added they had to obtain a starting point.

Chairperson Kelly said they had to get the other members of the community engaged. He stated the last time the commission met about three (3) years ago, he saw many veterans become disengaged and lose interest. He stated the committee must regain veteran interest and engagement. He stated the meetings used to be filled with veterans but might have been an empty house due to the recent lifting of restrictions. He stated one thing the committee needed to discuss was how to get veterans out and interested.

Commissioner Hudson stated one of the best things to do to continue engagement was to ensure every newsletter and email that came out from the city had some kind of an engagement aspect to deal with the younger veterans. He provided examples of new college and employment opportunities within the city that were not just VA-related but central to the city itself. He stated Staff must try to bolster up the city and state government with current opportunities but that word had been stagnant.

Vice-Chairperson Holcomb stated the first thing the committee needed to do was to state its goals about providing guidance and education to be brought to veterans in North Las Vegas. She stated they would like to partner with the VA, other VA organizations and Nellis Air Force Base to come together as a whole. She said Chairman Kelly said when they used to have meetings before, they engaged with other veteran organizations and one of the things they needed to do in that realm was to invite them to come. She stated if the commission was not going to veterans, it needed to bring veterans to them. She stated the committee needed veteran feedback and needed to have a goal in place to state what their plan is and what it needed to expand upon.

Chairperson Kelly asked if the city website allowed a link to a VCC survey of ideas and asked what the Staff would like for the commission to tackle, keeping in mind the bylaws. Chief of Staff Gipson responded to Chairperson Kelly that they would work with him to develop the survey for the webpage and take questions from him on what they would like to see as far as input.

Commissioner Hudson asked if the surveys on the website could be configured to send a message committee-wide so each member would receive the messages. Chief of Staff Gipson responded to Commissioner Hudson that she would work with IT Staff to

discover if that was a possibility and that she would get back to the committee on that.

Commissioner Jenkins asked if the city newsletter would allow the committee to have a section or box with a link or attachment with the potential survey so from a marketing standpoint would be broadcast in varieties of ways. He stated if the section was highly visible, it would allow for more responses. Chief of Staff Gipson responded to Commissioner Jenkins that they could add the section to the City Council Newsletters that are distributed weekly.

Commissioner Jenkins stated they would have liked to hear from Staff and sort out what priorities were as the committee developed a plan.

Chairperson Kelly asked if it were possible for the committee to write up their individual ideas without member discussion and then present their ideas for a vote at the next committee meeting.

Commissioner Jenkins stated he would have liked to be able to obtain the previous committee's plans to be able to digest the information in order to prioritize.

Chairperson Kelly asked if they had a strategic plan from the previous committee had a plan they could review. He stated they would be the first ones to tackle this.

Commissioner Jenkins added that the committee needed to have a starting point to develop a vision to make it clear that it was a work in progress. He stated the committee could have plenty of discussion but that he needed something tangible to be able to go forward in the community on a larger scale.

Commission Member Hudson stated he agreed with Commissioner Jenkins in having a baseline status to be able to iron down things that had been going on since they started in their current roles in the community.

Chief of Staff Gipson stated to Chairman Kelly that she had viewed some previous plans but did not know how far back they went from the previous commission. She stated she could pull that up and recommended possibly conducting a special meeting before the next meeting to be able to hammer out discussion on a strategic plan. She said at that point they should have survey results from what constituents were looking for. She added they could look at the old plan and develop their plan as a new commission and move forward from there.

Chairperson Kelly thanked Chief of Staff Gipson and stated if they had a baseline to start with they could sit down and figure out amongst themselves based on what comes back from surveys how it would look. He asked if the commission was permitted to have a special meeting. Chief of Staff Gipson responded to Chairperson Kelly that they

were allowed to have a special meeting and it would still be in open forum. She asked Chairperson Kelly if he would like to take a motion on that.

Chairperson Kelly made a motion to conduct a special meeting of the Veteran's Community Commission.

ACTION: ACCEPTED

MOTION: Chairperson Kelly

AYES: Vice-Chairperson Holcomb, Commissioner Hudson, Jenkins

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Vega

**6. DISCUSS, DEVELOP AND APPROVE EVENT PLANNING AND ACTIVITIES.**  
**(FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)**

Chairperson Kelly asked if they were talking about future meets when it came to events or anything else in the community. He added that he would like to make a motion to discuss this at the special meeting as they would have a calendar of events to discuss moving forward, accounting for what the community said.

Commissioner Jenkins asked Chairperson Kelly how they would establish the date for the special meeting. Chief of Staff Gipson advised Commissioner Jenkins she would work with Chairperson Kelly on a date that would be in between now and the second VCC meeting in May. She stated they would look at a date in April to give them some time for feedback from the community. Commissioner Jenkins stated that would be perfect as he is out of the country for the next month.

Chairperson Kelly made a motion to discuss this at the special meeting held in the future.

ACTION: APPROVED

MOTION: Chairperson Kelly

AYES: Commissioner Hudson, Commissioner Jenkins, Vice-Chairperson Holcomb

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Vega

**STAFF ITEMS**

**COMMISSION ITEMS**

Chairperson Kelly stated he wished to thank Councilwoman Goynes-Brown for bringing the commission back. He said on behalf of the commission, they wished to thank staff.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

There was no public participation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

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Michael Kelly,  
Chairperson

**ATTEST:**

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Justine McDowell,  
Deputy City Clerk II