

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES (INCOMING)

Tribal Chambers ~ Nixon, NV

January 7, 2022

Members Present:

Steven Wadsworth, Vice Chairman
Harriet Brady, Councilmember
Nathan Dunn, Councilmember
Natalia Gonzales, Councilmember
Della John, Councilmember

Judith Davis, Councilmember
Edward Ely III, Councilmember
John Guerrero, Councilmember
James Phoenix, Councilmember

Note: Due to COVID-19 Tribal Council meetings are closed to the public to ensure the health and safety of attendees. Councilmembers attended in-person and via zoom audio conferencing.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Wadsworth called the January 7, 2022, Regular (Incoming) Tribal Council meeting of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council to order at 6:40 p.m. *On behalf of the Tribe, Chairwoman Davis was traveling to Las Vegas to attend the Memorial Service for Senator Reid.*

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Brenda A. Henry, Tribal Secretary. All Councilmembers were present at roll call and a quorum was established for this meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Debra Harry, NUMU Inc. member stated Tribal Council typically appoints a liaison or ex-officio member to the NUMU Inc. board. The position is currently filled by Councilmember Brady. The pattern has been it's reappointed every year because of the new Council that is sworn in every year. She would like the appointment added to the agenda. Vice Chairman Wadsworth asked if it was in their policies and procedures because Councilmember Brady is still on Council and her term has not yet ended. Ms. Harry said in previous years the pattern has been that it's an annual appointment or a reaffirmation of the existing ex-officio. Councilmember Dunn suggested they put it on the agenda. Councilmember Ely said he spoke with his sister, Sherry Ely-Mendes, who was previously the Council's ex-officio representative, she served two years and she didn't get reaffirmed until her term was up. Vice Chairman Wadsworth said each board has different rules in their charters and that is what needs to be followed. Ms. Harry said their charter isn't specific about terms for Council ex-officio appointments, but she knows it is typically reaffirmed with the first Council meeting of the year. Councilmember Brady said she was at the NUMU Inc. board meeting that day and they were

supposed to research it and have the material available and she doesn't understand why they don't have it. Dan Mosley said with the Fisheries Charter, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are elected, they serve out their terms until the position becomes vacant. Councilmember Davis said instead of acting on it since they are unsure, they should put it on the next agenda.

Councilmember Dunn made a motion to *approve the agenda with the addition*. Councilmember Phoenix seconded the motion.

Councilmember John said she doesn't agree with adding to the agenda because they should recognize the term when Council appoints to a committee.

Votes were four (4) **for** and three (3) **opposed** (Davis, Ely, John) with one (1) **abstention** (Brady). **MOTION PASSED**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Secretary Henry read an email received from Leona Collins, "Observation of mine.. We are a Tribe divided. There is so much dislike/disagreement on the Tribal membership and Tribal Council level. In order to progress this must end. Tribal Council you are our elected leaders and it is time to put your differences aside and move forward. It is your right to vote how you see fit, voice your opinion, cast your vote and move on. You need to work together for the good of the Tribe and not for special interest groups. We can agree to disagree but get past that and work together. Congratulations and good luck to the newly elected and seated Council members, you got your work cut out for you."

Gina Wadsworth thanked everyone for their support for the last two years and congratulated the new Tribal Council members, wished them well and to make good decisions.

Mervin Wright Jr. said he had a couple topics to address with Council: Surge Metals is proposing a lithium mine in the San Emidio Valley 20 miles north of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation. According to their website, the proposed lithium mine project is in a preliminary stage of obtaining a permit to conduct test drilling. The Tribe should be engaging with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to state and establish its opposition to this proposed lithium mine project. A Tribal Council resolution should be adopted establishing its formal objection. Lithium mine waste is toxic and will have a long-lasting detrimental impact on the environment including resources of the reservation. Large amounts of water and the use of sulfuric acid needed to leach the lithium makes the water source so critical. Unless there is a clear solution to address the toxicity of the lithium mine waste, it can be present for a very long time. There are three questions with the sulfuric acid neutralization process, how safe is the wastewater? Will it be a brine withdrawal evaporative process? Is there a well source for water or is it an open pit mine? The United States Government is using the term, it is a matter of national economic security, replacing the common term, it is a matter of national security, and national priority is nothing more than corporate greed for profit, the environment is left to be expendable. The reservation could be viewed as less impacting versus the Great Salt Lake and it could become another environmental justice issue with the American Society. We can all appreciate the move

Secretary Henry read the applicant names: Mervin Wright Jr., Gina Wadsworth, Irwin Mix, Carolyn Harry, Mariah New Moon and Brandon Serawop. Councilmembers texted their selection to Secretary Henry and with a vote of four, Mervin Wright Jr. was selected for the 2-year civilian term.

For Tribal Council representative selection, Councilmember Dunn nominated Councilmembers Guerrero and Davis. Councilmember Davis declined due to meetings on same date as the Enrollment Committee. Councilmember Guerrero accepted the nomination. Councilmember Ely nominated Councilmember John. Councilmember John declined due to her duties on the Economic Development Committee. Councilmember Phoenix volunteered for the remaining Tribal Council representative position.

Councilmember Dunn made a motion to *approve Councilmembers Guerrero and Phoenix as Pyramid Lake Fisheries Tribal Council representatives*. Councilmember Ely seconded the motion. Votes were six (6) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with two (2) **abstentions** (John, Phoenix). **MOTION PASSED**

Dan Mosley, Pyramid Lake Fisheries Director, welcomed the new Tribal Council representatives and updated them on the meetings scheduled for the third Tuesday of every month, next meeting scheduled for January 18th, at which time they will be sworn in.

2. Request Approval for 2022 Cast Hope Fishing Derby March 25-26, 2022. Matt Heron & Ryan Johnston, Cast Hope

Mr. Johnston said Matt Heron was out of town. They have had successful fundraising for the past six years. They are grateful the Tribe allows them to carry on with raising money for kids in the Tahoe Reno region. The money is raised for at risk underserved kids by encouraging them to love of fly fishing and getting them on the water. Their goal is to serve 24 guests, they will be working with Pyramid Fly Company, an approved Pyramid Lake Fishing Guide. 100% of the proceeds goes to the kids. They will be including kids from the Tribe.

Councilmember Dunn made a motion to *approve the 2022 Cast Hope Fishing Derby for March 25-26, 2022*. Councilmember Phoenix seconded the motion. Votes were eight (8) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with zero (0) **abstentions**. **MOTION PASSED**.

3. Schedule Workshop with NUMU Inc. Board of Directors for Tribal Council. Debra Harry, NUMU Inc. Member

Ms. Harry said in researching NUMU Inc.'s two organic documents, a charter was passed by Congress and ratified by Tribal Council on October 20, 2017, and By-laws were also approved by Tribal Council. The charter does delineate the term of the ex-officio member and under Article 11, the ex-officio serves for three-years or until their term ends, at that point, Tribal council will fill the vacancy. She apologized to Council for requesting it be placed on the agenda. There is no action needed. NUMU Inc. would be engaging in strategic planning the weekend of February 4-6 and invites Councilmembers to attend and participate in their discussions. Planning is based on the strategic plan and economic development plan of the Tribe. They would

also like to meet with Council in a workshop over the next couple of months. They committed to the previous Council, an audit of the years that NUMU Inc. has been operational which was from 2017 forward. It's estimated the audit should be complete by mid-March, which could also be a good time to schedule a workshop with Council. One thing that has been difficult for members to understand is that NUMU Inc. is a corporation of the Tribe and the Tribe is the full owner. The NUMU Inc. board is a subsidiary of the Tribal Council and is a little different because it is a Section 17 Corporation. It is not incorporated in the State but is federally mandated.

Councilmember Gonzales asked if they could send their presentation to the new Councilmembers. Ms. Harry said they are looking forward to working collaboratively with Council to bring them all up to speed. She will share all the documents with Council but they would prefer to have an in-person workshop Council.

4. Request Approval New Tribal Councilmember Check Signature Authority Resolution. Douglas Williams, Comptroller

Mr. Williams explained the resolution is to remove the outgoing Councilmembers and approve the new Councilmembers for check signature authorizations for the Tribe.

Councilmember Gonzales made a motion to *approve Resolution for Signature Authority for New Councilmembers*. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion. Votes were eight (8) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with zero (0) **abstentions**. **MOTION PASSED. RESOLUTION NO.: PL 001-22 WELLS FARGO SIGNATURE AUTHORITY**

5. Appointment of Tribal Council Representative to Pyramid Lake Health Board (one vacancy).

Vice Chairman Wadsworth explained Councilmember Gonzales was previously the Tribal Council representative on the Pyramid Lake Health Board. Since her term ended it opened the Tribal Council representative position.

Councilmember Phoenix nominated Councilmember Gonzales for the vacancy. Councilmember Guerrero volunteered. Councilmember Brady asked if Councilmember Davis or John were interested. Councilmember John said her sister was on the board. Councilmember Guerrero pulled his name and declined.

Councilmember Phoenix made a motion to *appoint Councilmember Gonzales as a Tribal Council representative on the Pyramid Lake Health Board*. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion. Votes were seven (7) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with one (1) **abstention** (Gonzales). **MOTION PASSED.**

6. Appointment of Tribal Council Representative to NUMU Inc. Board of Directors.

Previously noted by Debra Harry, NUMU Inc member, in accordance with their charter, the current Tribal Council ex-officio representative will remain until her term is over.

Councilmember Dunn made a motion to *remove the NUMU Inc Tribal Council Representative item from the agenda*. Councilmember Phoenix seconded the motion. Votes were seven (7) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with

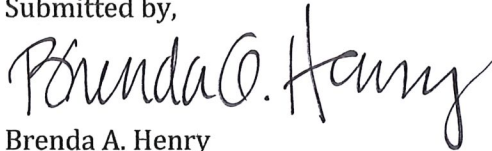
one (1) **abstention** (Brady). **MOTION PASSED.**

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Tribal Council, Councilmember Phoenix made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ely. Votes taken were all in favor, **motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Submitted by,

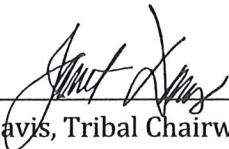


Brenda A. Henry
Tribal Council Secretary

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing minutes were adopted by the Pyramid Lake Tribal Council, governing body of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, at a meeting duly held on the 4th day of February 2022, having ten (10) members present, constituting a quorum, by the vote of nine (9) FOR and zero (0) OPPOSED, with zero (0) ABSTENTIONS.

Minutes attested and concurred by: _____



Janet Davis, Tribal Chairwoman
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council

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