

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Tribal Chambers ~ Nixon, NV November 7, 2025, Regular

Members Present:

Steven Wadsworth, Tribal Chairman
Loren Decker, Councilmember
Judith Davis, Councilmember
Nathan Dunn, Councilmember
Georgina Wadsworth, Councilmember

Edward Ely III, Vice Chairman
Nicholas Cortez, Councilmember
John Guerrero, Councilmember
Ceira Sampson, Councilmember

Members Absent: Della John, Councilmember

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Wadsworth called the November 7, 2025, Regular Tribal Council meeting of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Brenda A. Henry, Tribal Secretary, took roll call. Councilmember John was absent. All other Councilmembers were present, and a quorum was established for this meeting. Councilmember Guerrero attended via zoom in accordance with the Online Meeting Policy and Procedures.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Wadsworth presented the November 7, 2025, Regular Council meeting agenda. Chairman Wadsworth requested to add the approval of the insurance policy under Unfinished Business #1 and move the Unfinished Business Finance Update to #2.

Harriet Brady, in the audience, asked if the NUMU Inc. update would be for the public and if not, she would like to request an update be given.

Councilmember Davis asked to add Heidi McClusky, Elder Emergency request to the Consent Agenda #2c. Ratifications.

Councilmember Cortez motioned to *approve the November 7, 2025, Regular agenda with changes*. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion. Votes were eight (8) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with zero (0) **abstentions**. **MOTION PASSED**

PUBLIC COMMENT. No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Following items presented on the Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of the use of Insurance Funds to Replace Animal Control Truck. PLPD
2. Approval Ratification of Poll Votes:
 - a. Elder Emergency Marlon Ramos b. BOR Tribal Drought Grant c. Elder Emergency Request Hiedi McClusky
3. Approval Wes Williams October 2025 Invoice#4447

Councilmember Davis requested to pull item #1 for discussion.

Councilmember Coretez motioned to *approve items #2 and #3*. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion. Votes were eight (8) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with zero (0) **abstentions**. **MOTION PASSED**

ITEM 1. Approval of the use of Insurance Funds to Replace Animal Control Truck.

Councilmember Davis asked if there was anywhere else in their budget where they could use the funding and they won't come back to the Council asking for more funding if they use the funds for this vehicle.

Chief Parsons said the funds are for replacing a vehicle that was wrecked and the funding will be used to purchase another vehicle.

Councilmember Cortez asked if he was without a vehicle. Chief Parsons said he is currently using an old vehicle with major mileage. Councilmember Cortez said ultimately the vehicle is working. Not knowing the accuracy of the budgets, it might be wise to sit on the money for a while.

Councilmember Wadsworth said don't they have to use the money for replacement of this vehicle. Chief Parsons said the last time they did this, he was told it goes back into the general fund, and he must come before the Council to request it to be used for the replacement vehicle. If they hold it, will it roll over into next year's budget?

Vice Chairman Ely asked if this would be the total cost for the vehicle. Chief Parsons said he would have to add to it, but they have the funds for that since they had to keep a tight hold on their budgets.

Vice Chairman Ely motioned to *approve the use of the Insurance Funds to Replace the Animal control Truck*. Councilmember Decker seconded the motion. Votes were three (3) **for** and four (4) **opposed** (Sampson, Cortez, Guerrero, Davis) with one (1) **abstention** (Dunn). **MOTION FAILED**.

MINUTES.

a. October 8, 2025, Regular

No corrections noted.

Councilmember Davis motioned to *approve the October 8, 2025, Regular minutes*. Councilmember Sampson seconded the motion. Votes were seven (7) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with one (1) **abstention** (Guerrero). **MOTION PASSED**

b. October 29, 2025, Special

Councilmember Wadsworth provided her corrections which were grammatical errors.

Councilmember Cortez motioned to *approve the October 29, 2025, Special minutes*. Councilmember Sampson seconded the motion. Votes were six (6) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with two (2) **abstention** (Davis, Guerrero). **MOTION PASSED**

PRESENTATION

1. Assured Partners Insurance 2026 Policy Options. *Randy Gable, Director of Employee Benefits State of Nevada for Assured Partners*

Mr. Gable explained they represented the Tribe for about 15 years. The Tribe's policies renew annually on January 1st. They received the Tribe's initial renewal from Hometown Health back in September and worked closely with the Finance and HR Departments. Healthcare costs are rising throughout the market, the Tribe's rates are mainly driven by claims experiences for the group, for example, utilization at hospitals throughout the area. The claims experiences for the Tribe are about 98%, which means for every dollar of premium collected by Hometown Health, .98 cents are going to pay claims. This doesn't take into account any administrative expenses or any fees that might be involved in running the health plan. This is less than they have seen in prior years, over the last 12 months the Tribe has had 26 large claimants. A large claimant is an individual that has incurred \$25,000 claims in 12 months, 23 of those areas still active claims. As a result of that, Hometown Health originally released a proposed increase of 25.6% over the current rates. They took this information and went out to the market and looked at all fully insured plans and really scoured the market. They did receive information from competitive carriers which allowed them to leverage against Hometown Health and negotiate and get their initial renewal increase down. They eventually came down to an 11.9% increase off their current rates. It represents a reduction of \$300,000 in annual premium. With the plan changes proposed, the 11.9% increase reflects an annual increase over the current premium of about \$284,000. If they look at that from a per employee program basis, as the Tribe pays 100% of the employee only premium, it's about \$139 per employee per month increase. With consultation with the Tribe's team, they are recommending moving forward that the plan stays as is with no changes, which is due to the administrative burden of making changes and making sure there is not a disruption for the employees. They also looked at the ancillary options like dental, vision and life and voluntary benefits like accident coverage, critical illness, long and short-term disability. They are recommending bundling all those items with Mutual of Omaha, currently dental and vision is with Anthem Insurance along with the life insurance. The reason is it provides savings off the current rates, looking at a decrease for dental, vision and life insurance which are employer paid. It represents about \$20,000 in annual savings and it also allows them to bundle that with a best-in-class insurance carrier. This would allow streamlining with Mutual of Omaha instead of receiving various invoices. They are also working to ensure the dental and vision is contracted with the Pyramid Lake Tribal Health Clinic.

Councilmember Davis asked if the PLTHC has gone through this process because her concern is for the employees having to change their referrals. Dawna Brown, PLTHC Director confirmed they have and the reason is that Renown Hospital is already working with Hometown Health and it's where the majority of their specialties go.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Approval of Insurance Plan

No further discussion.

Councilmember Cortez motioned to *approve the Negotiated Renewal for the 2026 Insurance Proposal*. Councilmember Davis seconded the motion. Votes were eight (8) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with zero (0) **abstentions**. **MOTION PASSED**

Councilmember Ceira Sampson stepped down to present as the Tribal Treasurer.

2. **Finance Update.** *Ceira Sampson, Tribal Treasurer and Ben John, Tribal Council appointed Finance Supervisor*

Mr. John explained that Sheri Hunter, Tribal Consulting Services' initial contract included four people, AP, Payroll, Accounting Supervisor and GL accounting but they weren't able to bring in a payroll person, so she adjusted her contract. They came in and picked up payroll quickly within a day and a half. There was one issue with uploading to Wells Fargo, but it was taken care of the Thursday that payroll was due. It wasn't a personnel error but more of a software issue. Ms. Hunter reviewed everything, made sure the taxes done and ready to go. They moved over to cash receipts and believes they are done with May through the first week of September, now they must go back to find January to Mays receipts to have those done for the audit prep.

Ms. Sampson thanked the Council, Mr. John, and Francesca Maipi for coming in and assisting the staff. They are seeing a lot of the documentation that wasn't done, the documenting of expenses and now they must go back and try to find that documentation. Mr. John added that this just illustrates the main thing wrong, he would push for whomever takes over, they need training. There is no reason they are not spending a week in MIP.

Vice Chairman Ely asked where they in the process are in getting to draw down grant funds. Mr. John said that comes from ASAP.gov and to get on with that system they must be verified in IDME website. Chairman Wadsworth said he is working on the entity administrator because they have two grants pending, one for the Police and the other for Victim Services but they don't have access to access to approve. It was previously set up for two previous Comptrollers but he is working on access so he can accept. Which is a different system.

Councilmember Davis asked if that was all the Chairman was doing with Finance; he is not doing drawdowns or anything else. Chairman Wadsworth confirmed that is all he is doing.

Mr. John said what he saw occurring in Finance, there was a lot of interruption in the workflow. Now the GL accountant is doing their job with AP, if there are questions set aside and Ms. Maipi will handle those

questions. The AP accountant is also holding her information before she submits it to have it verified by Ms. Maipi, then she submits it for upload.

Councilmember Dunn asked if the other contracted payroll person was still on contract. Mr. John said that position was from a firm, they don't have anyone in that position now. In regard to the Accounting Supervisor, they did have a call from Pay Core, a payroll processing company, this will have to come to the Council because it will mean they will be eliminating jobs. Ms. Sampson said they reached out to her because it was initially being coordinated with Ms. Wright and Kami Johnson, the previous Comptroller. It will be brought to the Council.

Chairman Wadsworth added that he has been going through the Tribes right of ways and easements because it like they weren't being billed correctly, so he's been working with Randa Mitchell to ensure they are billing for the correct amounts.

Councilmember Davis said they did Comptroller interviews, do they have a start date? Chairman Wadsworth said the start date would be November 24, 2025. Councilmember Davis asked how long will Councilmember Sampson be the Tribal Treasurer? Chairman Wadsworth said however long it takes for the transition, for the remainder of the year. Councilmember Davis said she was asked to come in to assist with clean up, get caught up and help with the audit and she can see they now have a good working group; she would like to halt or put a freeze on any hiring in Finance until the beginning of the year. Chairman Wadsworth explained a part of their contract addendum was to train the personnel in the department as well. Councilmember Cortez said they shouldn't be appointing or doing interim appointments with people in the Finance Department, they should be hired as actual employees. Interims are not guaranteed to stay.

Vice Chairman Ely said he would like to see the firm currently in the Finance Department remain until the end of the year. This will allow the Comptroller to get more comfortable in the position then the Chairman can step back. They are trying to look for stability.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Selection of Enrollment Committee Vacancy (1 vacancy).

There were three applicants for the one (1) vacancy on the Enrollment Committee: April Harden received four (4) votes, Theresa Fiore received two (2) votes, Elena Sanchez received zero (0) votes with two (2) abstentions. April Harden was selected to fill the one vacancy on the Enrollment Committee.

2. Request for Approval of PLTHC to Purchase a Modular Unit for Storage/Office Space. *Dawna Brown, PLTHC Director*

Ms. Brown said they processed a request for proposals (RFP) for a modular and the Health Board chose Willscot Company. They couldn't go with their normal choice, Quick Space, who were bought out by United Rental and due to the upcoming Olympics, they were not doing any local sales and concentrating efforts on California. The unit will be for medical storage and office space. Councilmember Wadsworth asked for the Craftsman quote, did they know how much the remodel expenses would be. Ms. Brown said she didn't know.

Councilmember Davis motioned to *approve the Willscot Company for the purchase of a modular unit for storage/office space for the PLTHC*. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion. Votes were five (5) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with three (3) **abstentions** (Wadsworth, Cortez, Guerrero). **MOTION PASSED.**

Councilmember Wadsworth said she abstained because there was no cost for the remodel.

3. Request for Approval of NUMU Inc Funds for Litigation Continuation/Update. NUMU Inc BOD

Vice Chairman Ely and Councilmembers Decker and Dunn stepped down from their Council seats to present for NUMU Inc.

Councilmember Decker, the Tribal Council Ex-Efficio for NUMU Inc. explained said they are in litigation until next year until they resolve the issue.

Harriet Brady, in the audience, said before she left (as a former Councilmember) the Council was approving another amount because Dickerson was requiring it. Is NUMU Inc.'s lawyer still being paid. As she recalls, Dickerson was saying that everything was going to be done by June.

Brian Wadsworth asked how much more money was being requested from the Council. Mr. Decker said \$200,000.

Mr. Ely said a public statement needs to come out from either the Council or the NUMU Inc. Board or both to explain the situation, to explain this Council didn't get into the mess and the current NUMU Inc. Board didn't get into the mess either. It was a couple of previous NUMU Inc Board and all they are trying to do is get the property back with the direction of the Council. They have been to a negotiated settlement hearing and were prepared for certain levels of settlement and Greenberg said he didn't want it. He was demanding what he wanted and not willing to settle, not sure what the previous NUMU Inc. Board settled for or what they were doing but they are going to litigate, all the way.

Ms. Brady said when he is talking about notifying the public, they need to make sure they differentiate between NUMU Inc. and the owners, because out in the public they are assuming it is the Council when its actuality the owners. There are differences and people mistakenly say the Council is running the show entirely, but they are talking about owners being placed on the Board because of what is going on due to the release of the former Board members. It needs to be clarified.

Mr. Dunn, Vice Chairman NUMU Inc. said they are minimizing their spending by changing the billing of the attorney's retainer by worked being done plus the stipends aren't as exuberant as they were before. They have been emphasizing the difference between the Council and NUMU Inc. because JGFP is trying to group them all together.

Mr. Wadsworth asked how many Councilmembers sit on the Board. The following owners sit on the Board: Ed Ely, Della John, Nathan Dunn, Latisha Burke and Brandon Serawop and Loren Decker is the Ex-Officio who doesn't have voting rights. There are three owners on the Board that have voting rights.

Leona Collins, in the audience asked at once time wasn't there only one Councilmember on NUMU Inc. Chairman Wadsworth said it was about two and a half years ago, the Board at the time were non-owners and weren't performing, weren't abiding by the owner's wishes and after nine months with zero results. Once the owners were put on the Board, within two months they had the lawyers going to litigation.

Sherry Ely-Mendes acknowledged that owners should not be on the Board but knows they are in a fix. It shouldn't be because they want to separate liability, but they are in the middle of it now. What progress have they made with the money they handed over to the Board in the last round? Mr. Decker said it's a revolving issue, going back and forth with motions.

Ms. Brady said Greenberg is not coming up with better arguments, he is just coming up with frivolous stuff. She sat in the court hearing in regard to the liquor license and the judge asked if Greenberg had any partners, but she is wondering if there was ever an investigation or it seems like there is a potential where Drew Rice has been in the background. But looking at what Greenberg has with holdings it suggests there is a partner. Someone who was a former owner is coaching him, and the Council needs to be mindful and not promoting busy there. There is a concern about where the funds are coming from because there is the potential of things haven't been upfront all along. They knew it was a bad contract to begin with, and a lawyer said the contract might as well been written on a cocktail napkin. The big concern for the community, where is the funding being used since they are coming up to \$7 million being used for this.

Councilmember Decker returned to his seat at 7:01 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Cortez motioned to *move into Executive Session*. Councilmember Sampson seconded the motion. Votes were six (6) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with zero (0) **abstentions**. **MOTION PASSED**. *Tribal Council moved into Executive Session at 7:02 p.m.*

Councilmember Guerrero was put in the waiting room on zoom per the Online Meeting Policy and Procedures.

Councilmember Decker stepped down from his Council seat to present with NUMU Inc.

Councilmember Cortez motioned to *move out of Executive Session*. Councilmember Wadsworth seconded the motion. Votes were four (4) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with zero (0) **abstentions**. **MOTION PASSED**. *Tribal Council moved out of Executive Session at 7:43 p.m.*

Councilmember Cortez motioned to *direct the Chairman to work with Mr. John, Business Officer to locate funding in the amount of \$200,000 for NUMU Inc*. Councilmember Wadsworth seconded the motion. Votes were four (4) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with one (1) **abstention** Guerrero). **MOTION PASSED**

3. Schedule Meeting for Complaint #011 Hearing.

The Council were at consensus to schedule a hearing meeting for complaint #011 and NUMU Inc. Funding on November 12, 2024, at 5 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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


The meeting adjourned at 7:47 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 **21st** day of **November 2025**, having **eight (8)** members present, constituting a quorum, by the vote of **seven (7)** FOR and **zero (0)** OPPOSED, with **zero (0)** ABSTENTIONS.

Minutes attested and concurred by: 
Steven Wadsworth, Tribal Chairman
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council

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