

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council

*Post Office Box 256
Nixon, Nevada 89424
Telephone: (775) 574-1000
Fax (775) 574-1054*

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tribal Chambers ~ Nixon, NV

March 6, 2026, Regular

Members Present:

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

Edward Ely III, Vice Chairman
John Guerrero, Councilmember
Della John, Councilmember
Ceira Sampson, Councilmember
Georgina Wadsworth, Councilmember

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Wadsworth called the March 6, 2026, Regular Tribal Council meeting of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Brenda A. Henry, Tribal Council Secretary. Councilmember John arrived at 6:05 p.m. All other Councilmembers were present at the roll call, and a quorum was established for this meeting. *Councilmember Guerrero attended via zoom.*

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Wadsworth presented the agenda with the addition of Wes Williams February 2025 Invoice #4476.

Councilmember Dunn motioned to *approve the February 6, 2026, Regular Agenda with addition.* Councilmember Davis seconded the motion. Votes were eight (8) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with zero (0) **abstentions**. **MOTION PASSED.**

PUBLIC COMMENT.

Councilmember John arrived at 6:05 p.m.

Carla Eben, Tribal Member. Ms. Eben wanted to know the outcome of her complaint whether it was still with legal. Starting she did go through process to be placed on the agenda and would still like to be put on the agenda. Chairman Wadsworth let her know her complaint was still with legal.

Dave Mauwee, Tribal Member and Marissa Mauwee, Tribal Member. Mr. Mauwee said they were informed the Council decided not to partner with Obsidian for a dispensary. They would appreciate the time and

consideration given to their request. They would like the Council to share their reasons for the denial so they can understand the concerns and to revise the proposal in a way that aligns with the Tribe's priorities and policies.

Chairman Wadsworth said normally they don't response to public comment, he can get them something in writing, but they will be in the minutes which will include the discussion. And they are more than welcome to come to his office.

Linda Ely, Tribal Member. Ms. Ely had an issue with kids bitten by reservation dogs at the school bus stop; people have said they had filed reports with the police, rangers, school police, and animal control but nobody had gotten back to them. She had pictures of the dog and bruises her grandson received. The school bus driver is giving the dog food, so it no longer bites the kids. Something needs to be done; it's becoming a problem.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Wadsworth presented the consent agenda.

1. Approval Enrollment five (5) Applications for Regular Membership with Resolution
2. Approval of Group Donation Requests:
 - a. Brian Wadsworth, Candidacy Donation
 - b. Walker River Paiute Tribe Annual Pinenut Festival
3. Approval Sponsorship Request: Sacred Vision Powwow
4. Approval Ratification Poll Votes
 - a. Elder Emergency Request Virginia Calico
 - b. Elder Energy Request Billie Jean Guerrero
 - c. Waltons – Ross Burke & Knobel Burial and Cremation Contracts
5. Approval Wes Williams February 2025 Invoice #4476

Councilmember Davis requested to pull items #2a & 3 for further discussion.

Councilmember Guerrero requested to pull item #4b for further discussion.

Councilmember Dunn motioned to *approve items #1, 2b, 4a and 5 on the consent agenda*. Vice Chairman Ely seconded the motion. Votes were nine (9) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with zero (0) **abstentions**. **MOTION PASSED. RESOLUTION NO.: PL 019-26 ENROLLMENT REGULAR MEMBERSHIP (5)**

ITEM #2a. Approval Group Donation: Request Brian Wadsworth.

Councilmember Davis said this is an individual applying for a group request and with the Council's policy, they qualify as an individual.

Mr. Wadsworth stated he is okay with the decision of the Council.

Councilmember Davis motioned to *approve items #2a, Group Donation Request for Brian Wadsworth at the Individual Donation rate*. Vice Chairman Ely seconded the motion. Votes were nine (9) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with zero (0) **abstentions**. **MOTION PASSED**

ITEM #3. Approval Sponsorship Request: Sacred Vision Powwow.

Councilmember Davis said this is included in their sponsorship line item, but they don't currently have a budget yet. She would like to table until they get a final 2026 budget approved.

Councilmember Davis motioned to *table item #3 due there is no approved 2026 budget*. Councilmember Sampson seconded the motion. Votes were nine (9) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with zero (0) **abstentions**.
MOTION PASSED

ITEM #4b. Approval Ratification Poll Vote- Elder Energy Request Billie Jean Guerrero

Councilmember Guerrero wanted to abstain from this matter. No further discussion.

Councilmember Cortez motioned to *approve items #2b Ratification of Poll Vote for Elder Energy Request Billie Jean Guerrero*. Councilmember Dunn seconded the motion. Votes were eight (8) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with one (1) **abstention** (Guerrero). **MOTION PASSED**

Chairman Wadsworth announced the new Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Members: Liam Oshana Badal, Soli Nyaea Gonzlaez, Dominique Day Star Little, Evelynna Nichole Cleone Kerr, and Nathaniel Lee Moore

ENROLLMENT Joanne Shaw – Enrollment Officer

1. Approval to Schedule Four (4) Enrollment Rejection hearings: two (2) adults and two (2) Minors (under 18)

Ms. Shaw stated they would still be within the 20-day timeline if they scheduled the hearing on April 3, 2026.

Vice Chairman Ely motioned to *schedule Rejection Hearings for April 3, 2026, Regular Tribal Council meeting*. Councilmember Wadsworth seconded the motion. Votes were nine (9) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with zero (0) **abstentions**.

MINUTES

A. January 2, 2026, Regular Outgoing DRAFT (previously tabled)

Corrections were made from the previous meeting. No further discussion.

Councilmember Davis had motioned to *approve the January 2, 2026, Regular Outgoing minutes*. Councilmember Cortez seconded the motion. Votes were nine (9) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with zero (0) **abstentions**. **MOTION PASSED**

b. February 6, 2026, Regular DRAFT

Councilmember Dunn said on page 2, third sentence there is a misspelling regarding Councilmember Davis stepping down from her Council seat.

Councilmember Dunn had motioned to *approve the February 6, 2026, Regular with correction*. Councilmember Sampson seconded the motion. Votes were nine (9) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with zero (0) **abstentions**. **MOTION PASSED**

PRESENTATION

1. Washoe County Commissioner District 5 Candidate Introduction. Katherine Yriarte

Ms. Yriarte said she is glad to be before the Council again to touch on a few points that affect the Tribe. For one she is not a career politician, she is a small business owner, a community organizer, a veterinary professional and one who spends years doing work that requires precision, accountability, and the ability to make tough decisions under pressure. These are skills the county government needs right now. She would like to reiterate that her approach is guided by simple principles, tribal sovereignty is sacred and it comes before any political ambition, and she will not campaign on the reservation without the explicit permission and blessing of the Tribal Council and elders. She has been encouraging other candidates to reach out to the Tribe and request an audience with them because they need to create a true government to government with the Tribal leadership. Her commitment to the Tribe is government to government on every issue, no county decisions affecting tribal land or water will be made without Tribal leadership at the table. She wants to build a true partnership and infrastructure, public safety, economic development, and conservation. Honoring sovereignty means honoring and practice and not just words.

COMMITTEE, BOARD AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

1. Election Board.

Election Board members: Jolyne Sander, Karole McQueen, Leona Collins, and Tanda Roberts. They have one vacant position that Lori Black vacated; Susie Albright was the next alternate in line but has declined to step in as a regular board member, Da Nelle Smith is the next in line and is interested. The other alternate is Arlene St. Pierre. If the Council wants to move Ms. Smith into the vacant position, they will have a full board with Ms. Albright and Ms. Pierre as alternates.

Ms. Sander said their goal is to tighten up the Election Ordinance, a working document, there is always something to be challenged plus there are a couple of items the Council mentioned, and they will take those into consideration when they start making amendments.

Vice Chairman Ely asked when there is an issue or concern, how does a Tribal member voice their concern or complaint? Does it have to be in writing or is it verbal? Does the board automatically say here is an issue or concern and they work on it or do they need a complaint or directive from the Council? Ms. Sander said if it's a complaint, it needs to be in writing. For amendments, once it's posted for a 30-day comment, or it goes to legal for comment, they will then take a look at those comments for consideration and implement them if they fit. They are open to all comments and during elections, when issues arise, they take note of them and afterwards come back to the committee to fix or resolve. Vice Chairman Ely asked if the complaint process is common knowledge or can they get it posted prior to the elections so when elections come around, they're not rushing to get someone on the agenda to revisit issues. Ms. Sander said she didn't think the process had changed. Most of the boards and committees and even Human Resources (HR) have a process that is similar. The process is outlined in the Ordinance but like everything, it's open to interpretation which was what they ran into during the last election. The challenge that was posed after the election should have been addressed before the Council approved of the Candidates List. They did their due diligence and addressed it and when challenges or protests come in, they take them seriously, then bring their recommendations to the Council.

Councilmember Dunn said emphasizing the deadlines would be the best thing to do. Ms. Sander said the deadlines are included in the flyer for candidates and when the timeline is completed, it's presented to the

Council for approval. There will always be somebody who finds something to challenge, its human nature, they just deal with it when they receive challenges.

Councilmember Cortez asked if they had a date when the timeline would be coming before the Council. Ms. Sander said they want to get it started earlier this year and have moved the timeline up by a month which would give everyone more time to prepare. This would also give the person who does the candidate's night more time to prepare.

Councilmember Dunn recommended looking at the process of ties and due to conflict of interest having the Council vote to break the tie. Ms. Sander said that subject will be addressed in the Ordinance because it does appear to be a conflict of interest if the Council is voting on a tie.

Leona Collins said the subject of ties is something that concerns her also, they need to have an unbiased decision and not have the Council vote. One of the other tribes has it in their Constitution, where in case of a tie, the names are put in a hat and drawn that way. There needs to be something in place along those lines. She also has a concern about the background checks, if they follow the Tribe's Personnel Policy, realizing a lot of the candidates are Tribal employees but they are also an elected official, which confuses her when it comes to background checks because some were denied.

Brian Wadsworth reiterated all comments should be made in writing to the Election Board. Ms. Sander agreed any recommendations to the Ordinance or changes should be made in writing.

Councilmember Davis said she likes that Ms. Sander said it's in their Ordinance for comments because she doesn't want to give the impression to the membership that there is a deadline to submit comments to the Board.

2. Pyramid Lake (PL)) Fisheries Board of Trustees.

Councilmember Dunn and Vice Chairman Ely stepped down from their Council seats at 6:38 p.m.

PL Fisheries Board of Trustees: Nathan Dunn, Chairperson, Edward Ely, Mariah New Moon, Karol McQueen, and Elena Sanchez.

Chairperson Dunn let the Council know that he and Mr. Ely's terms would be up at the end of the year. Their role is to look for grant opportunities to generate more revenue for operations to prolong their fight against water quality issues and to better serve the lake. Mr. Ely said as the Council knows, they are struggling financially, with the investments they received years ago, the rate of interest has continued to be depleted. Unfortunately, they are stuck with certain investments that are low risk and gain minimal interest. It has been a challenge. Back in the 80s they had thirty employees, now they are down to five. The Council just appointed an interim Executive Director for the PL Fisheries, and they are currently getting ready for spawning season and in the process of hiring two temporary fish culturists. Last year Norman Frazier, a long-time employee of 46 years come back to volunteer; Rodney Hawley, a 30-year employee, also came back and volunteered. If anyone wants to volunteer for spawning season, they are accepting volunteers. They will continue to look for grants and keep moving forward because the PL Fisheries are a mainstay of who the people are.

Chairperson Dunn read a narrative about the PL Fisheries. It is the mission of the PL Fisheries to operate and maintain fisheries facilities at Pyramid Lake and the lower Truckee River for the purpose of enhancing Cui-ui and Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT) and to produce revenue for the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe by providing trophy fish for anglers and visitors from around the world. Their current projects are spawning preparation, the hiring of two temporary positions for spawning season, and working on the 2026 Fishing Derby. Future projects include working with the summer youth programs, Fisheries facility clean-up, and once they secure future revenue, offering an internship for students and members to work with the PL Fisheries.

Councilmember Cortez asked when the start date for spawning is, Rutilio Lara, interim PL Fisheries Executive Director, stated the spawning days will be every Thursday in April. They are running into a new trend with LCT who are already coming into the spawning channel. This is the first time they've seen this happen this early, they are not ready to spawn yet but they are in the channel. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has already passed over 200 LCT trapped over the Marble Bluff Fish Facility. They're not sure how this is going to play out but the weather is changing and having an effect on how they are coming up for spawn.

Councilmember John commended them about the internship program because their own kids need to understand the importance of the PL Fisheries.

Ms. Collins said she saw a program on TV where they were talking about different agencies that had a meeting about Summit Lake and Pyramid Lake and Summit Lake had a representative present but there was nobody there for Pyramid Lake. Chairperson Dunn said Sarah Mandell and Denise Shaw were present presenting the PL Fisheries.

Mr. Ely said they now have an interim Executive Director who wouldn't be afraid to make his way to the front of the table where they need to be.

Rutilio Lara, Interim Executive Fisheries Director, introduced himself and said they are looking at the Tribe's Strategic Plan which goes into Economic Development and the funding and budget that goes along with it. They are in the process of creating their own Strategic Plan, once done they will take it to the Council but part of it will be is to see what is needed to sustain the PL Fisheries.

It was noted that volunteers don't need to be Tribal members, anybody can volunteer. Mr. Rutilio said they will put out some type of volunteer flyer.

Councilmember Guerrero mentioned the 101-618, where the Fisheries received \$27 million out of the settlement. They need to look at that and hopefully they can manage it into different Trust Funds for a higher interest rate.

Councilmember Dunn and Vice Chairman Ely returned to their Council seats.

Councilmember Wadsworth stepped down from her Council seat at 6:50 p.m.

3. Pyramid Lake High School Board of Education.

Pyramid Lake High School Board of Education members include Georgina Wadsworth, Jake Chapin, Billie Jean Guerrero, Janet Davis, and Hailey Dunn.

Ms. Wadsworth explained their responsibilities include overseeing the administration of the school, implementing policies and procedures, providing fiscal accountability which include approving contracts and representing the school at activities that may be occurring. Their board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. Their biggest project is reviewing the current policies and procedures which they hope to have done soon.

Councilmember John asked who accredits the school. Ms. Wadsworth said the school is accredited through Cognia.

Vice Chairman Ely said the board is up against another challenge, they received a resignation letter from Principal Zimmerman and Vice-Principal Finnegan. There was a certain amount of stability that took place when they stepped in and they will be missed but Congratulations on their decision to retire. Ms. Wadsworth said they both submitted their resignations and will be present until the end of June.

Councilmember John asked what the board has in place if the students are credit deficient to graduate. Ms. Wadsworth said they don't deal with that, it's administrative. Councilmember John was thinking they attended summer school. It was mentioned they have a seven-day period for minimal credit recovery.

Councilmember Cortez asked if there were any pressing issues to bring to the Tribe's attention. Ms. Wadsworth said there were none because they're a Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) school, so they don't usually fall under the Tribe's supervision.

Councilmember John asked if the BIE was restructured with all the federal funding or has it stayed the same. Mr. Zimmerman said there was some cleaning done but everyone that is in their chain of command is the same.

There was a question in the audience about what the student per teacher ratio was. The response was 20-1 but the average was 15-1.

Ms. Wadsworth returned to her Council seat at 6:56 p.m.

4. Pyramid Lake Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

Councilmember Davis stepped down from her Council seat at 6:57 p.m.

Pyramid Lake Housing Authority Board of Commissioners: Jolyne Sander (Chairperson), Judie Davis (Secretary/Treasurer), Irwin Mix, Leona Collins, and Jay Guerrero.

Chairperson Sander said the new rentals coming up at Big Bend are on schedule. Ms. Davis did a walk-through and she will be doing another walk-through the following week. Ms. Davis said the units are duplex, two units together and two will be ready for move-in by May and monthly after that moving in two families at a time. Ms. Sander added the duplexes are two to five bedrooms.

Councilmember Wadsworth asked why the Housing Board decided to go with rentals when there are a lot of members who need homes.

Ms. Sander guessed it was because of the grant. Ms. Davis added it's when they get funding from HUD to run the Housing program a lot of the homes, the 41, 42, 43, projects have paid off, so once members get the title,

they no longer get the subsidy from HUD. In order to keep Housing in business, as a business, they need the rental program so funding is coming in, so they can provide a service to the Tribal members. The units are low-income rentals. Ms. Sander said with this phase they are doing ten now and then twenty, then after that phase, they will be doing another ten for a total of forty. They are planning on future development for homeowners, and they have already gotten a few sites already.

Councilmember Cortez asked about the current list of individuals for low-income rentals whether that is going to be enough with the number of houses available or is there more or less on the list. Ms. Sander said the list is always changing and they are receiving applications constantly and they just purged the list last month, which means it's always revolving. Ms. Davis noted there is more on the list than what is available. It will always be an ongoing issue. Councilmember Cortez said with the income requirements, which he has received questions on, and he knows there is a rubric the Housing works off of. Is there a reason it's not publicly available in the application to show if they qualify. Ms. Davis said there is a dollar amount, but it reflects on the family size, or family composition. Ms. Sander said she posed the question at meeting whether they were going to move people out of the apartments and into the new duplexes, but the income guidelines are different, and they would have to meet the requirements for the duplex income guidelines.

Councilmember John commented that during the first Trump term, the HUD Secretary changed the income guidelines so that people who were on the housing list for years had to be removed because they were over income. Does Housing have a plan to assist the people who don't qualify? Ms. Davis said there is the 184 loan that is processed through Housing but it has a lot of steps. Richard Frazier, Tribal Land Manager, has a couple already looking at purchasing outside homes to bring in under that program. Ms. Sander added there are two looking at that program but again, they are running into the infrastructure issue which will come up every time the Land and Resource Committee comes before the Council. While they are giving land assignments, people discover they have to pay for their own water and power, it's not going to happen. That is one issue the Tribe really needs to address. Leona Collins asked, wasn't there a minimal number of over-income people that might qualify but it had to be approved back in Washington D.C but it was minimal. Councilmember John said the Tribe needs to have a planner to develop the areas where people can put their 184 homes where the Tribe has put in some type of infrastructure. Didn't there used to be coordination meetings, what happened to the ideas that came out of those meetings? Ms. Davis said those ideas are included in the Housing Directors monthly reports and the minutes of the quarterly meetings are provided to the Council. The Housing Department is trying to put out to the membership that there is a program for renovations. If members own their homes and have their land assignments, they can qualify for a new room, floors, or windows. These funds used for this program have to be allocated by September 30, 2026, so they are trying to get the word out to the membership. Councilmember John said in the Land Assignment Ordinance it addresses improvements and she provided comments to the Committee at the time, so they are aware of this, but improvements are listed as the home, fence, shed and all the items on the assignment. If a member loses their assignment, all of those items stay there and they lose it. What happens to the deed, after it's paid for, and they lost it, the Tribe doesn't compensate them for it. That's how she understands the Ordinance, it's going to encourage people to not make improvements and to not put their money into the assignment. Ms. Sander said that's a Land and Resource Committee question, but it doesn't impact on the Housing Authority. Since she is on the Land and Resource Committee, they will be back before the Council on March 20th and will address this question then.

Karen Shaw asked for clarification if a Tribal member did improvements and something did happen down the road, does the Tribe compensate them for the improvements. Ms. Davis said that it would be a Land and Resource Committee question because there has to be a reason they lost the land assignment.

5. Economic Development Committee (EDC).

Economic Development Committee members are Della John, Chairperson (2024-2028), Michael Brady (2025-2029), Lindsay Benson (2025-2029), and Shelley Mayhugh (2025-2029) and they currently have one vacancy on the committee.

Ms. Benson explained the EDC is responsible for advancing and overseeing the Tribe's Economic Development (ED) efforts. The committee's role is reviewing proposed ED projects, making recommendations to the Tribal Leadership on how the projects align with the Tribal Economic Development Plan (EDP) and goals, working with consultants and government partners on fund management, reporting annually on the status of the fund, and implementing the EDP.

Mr. Brady explained the current project, the Community Investment Program (CIP). In November 2025, the Tribal Council approved the creation of the CIP as presented by the EDC. The approved program established a phase implementation beginning in 2026 and authorizing the use of EDF income to support Tribal members, small businesses and Tribal entities through grants and low interest loans. Since that approval, no implementation steps have occurred. Progress has been paused pending approval of the new fiscal year budget, which includes the funding necessary to operationalize the program.

Ms. Mayhugh explained that the EDC has completed its fiscal year 2026 Standard Form 1034, budget request in the amount of \$187,652 and submitted a corresponding resolution for Tribal Council approval. Currently, committee implementation efforts are paused pending approval of the fiscal year 2026 budget. Upon approval the committee will re-engage FSA Investment Group to finalize and implement the approved investment strategy for the EDF, continue coordination with Circle Law Group to ensure legal compliance with Public Law 101-618, the EDP and the EDC Bylaws. They will also move forward with implementation of the CIP and related investment in loans, and grant program structures. Budget approval will allow committee to resume active oversight, strategic planning, and execution of the Tribe's ED objectives.

Chairperson John said Ms. Mayhugh lives in Bishop, Mr. Brady lives in Reno and Ms. Benson lives in Henderson, so they meet via zoom the last Monday of every month, but they've been meeting twice a month with FSA for the past six months. Working on the CIP was a task that they've completed, now they will begin developing the infrastructure. Because there is not a lot of economy on the Reservation, there isn't any turnaround, they want to create a structure that gives the membership an opportunity to contribute to the economy on the Reservation. The current EDP was approved in 2012, it's on the Tribe's website for anyone who wants to review it. There are seven tasks the committee has been tasked to do and since they passed CIP they can invest in it. Prior to this implementation, it was just earning interest and that is what the Council used for a stimulus payment to the Tribal members. The original investment or principle hasn't been touched and has grown from the original \$40 million to \$42 million. The principle is what gains interest and that is what the Council can access. The committee at one point was given to NUMU Inc, not sure how long they managed it but around 2022, the Council appointed committee members.

Jolyne Sander asked what the difference was between NUMU Inc. and the EDC. Both are tied to business and into bringing revenue into the Tribe but as a Tribal member they've seen nothing. There was NUMU Inc. who spent a lot of the money on consultants and legal fees and were not providing reports back to the Council who were asking for reports, but nothing was provided. They need to do something instead of spending all this money on consultants and legal fees, but the Tribal membership doesn't see any of it.

Ms. Mayhugh explained they are separate, the EDC is tasked with implementing the EDP, they are not seeking revenue generating business. They are to implement the plan structure for loans or grant programs for Tribal members to start businesses and for Tribal entities.

Chairperson John added that the Tribal Business Officer is also looking for revenue generation like NUMU Inc., but he is on Reservation and NUMU Inc. is supposed to be off Reservation. One thing she wanted to mention was the Land Ordinance set up a condition where Tribal members can't do business out of their homes which she questioned because they don't have a central kitchen for people to use or a store front so, the members have to use their home to do their craft or business out of. The Ordinance which was passed in 2023 says you can't do that.

Brian Wadsworth said the last time they reported they didn't have access to the ED funds, has that changed or how can they effectively run the CIP? Ms. Mayhugh stated they have the statements and have a good line of communication to get them.

In regard to a question about the loan program and the identified categories, Chairperson John explained the plan has control of the categories, it divides the \$42 million into seven categories with percentage breakdowns, which is the task for the EDC to figure out. They just need to get access to the trust contacts to help them understand the process. Carla Eben asked if they had contacts from the trusts because they were having issues getting another W2. Ms. Eben was informed that she is talking about Minor Account Trusts which is a separate entity. Ms. Sander asked if the financials were public and if so, how do they view them. Ms. Mayhugh said their responsibility is to provide a yearly report to the Council. Ms. Sander asked if they would be providing a report, like the Tax Department, so there is transparency.

Rutilio Lara asked if they were prepared to receive loaner/grant requests. The response was they were not ready, but they are working on it. Ms. Mayhugh added they need budget approval because they already have the financial advisors and are working through the process of developing the application, they will need a process to be able to review applications and to make recommendations.

In response to a question about supporting Tribal members and small businesses, providing support for sole source, federal contracts, SBA, is there that type of backend support? Ms. Mayhugh said they did talk about that type of funding and thought they were going to develop something to help existing businesses as well. It's more supporting the Tribal businesses with that process because they are more in depth. Chairperson John said you have to have many years of financial reports already in place to qualify for section eight. Instead of just giving out funds, they should at least get a return. They're trying to keep the trust intact so future generations can have access to the settlement. Ms. Mayhugh said they have a plan to create a resource center for small businesses for people developing their businesses where they can get support with legal advice on how to be successful.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Approval Sponsorship Request Pyramid Lake Jr/Sr High School Dinner. *Mark Zimmerman, Principal, PL Jr/Sr High School*

Mr. Zimmerman explained the funds will assist with this year's graduation dinner to pay for food, utensils, plates, and desserts. They have invested in tablecloths which they reuse every year.

Councilmember Cortez requested to keep this item *tabled* since they just tabled another sponsorship request under the same line item until they know what the budget is.

Vice Chairman Ely said they funded it last year under the 2025 budget and the direction was to use the 2025 budget until they approve the 2026 budget in March or April.

Councilmember Dunn said he agrees to keep this item tabled until they get answers to a budget. His other question is a lot of students are not Tribal members; he would like to know if the school approached other resources such as Reno-Sparks Indian Colony or Walker River Paiute Tribe for sponsorships. He is not against providing sponsorship because it's needed to celebrate their success, but he would like to see them reach out to other entities. Mr. Zimmerman said it's just local and it is for the community here on the Reservation.

Vice Chairman Ely motioned to *approve the sponsorship request from the Pyramid Lake Jr/Sr High School*. Councilmember Decker seconded the motion.

Councilmember Guerrero said he was not sure why they were voting on this one when they put another sponsorship request on hold and what budget are they using 2025 or 2026, which they don't have a budget for yet or a continuing budget. He would prefer they approve the budgets first.

Councilmember Davis said she is going to vote against it, not because she doesn't think the school deserves it, but when they did the continuing resolution, it was until March 31st and only for the first quarter. She will vote against it until they get a budget for 2026.

When asked how soon the school would need the sponsorship, Mr. Zimmerman said he was being proactive, they won't need it until May 1st.

Votes were two (2) **for**, and five (5) **opposed** (Davis, Sampson, Dunn, Cortez, Guerrero) with one (1) **abstention** (Wadsworth). **MOTION FAILED.**

Councilmember Davis motioned to *table the High School Sponsorship Request until a 2026 Budget is approved*. Councilmember Coretez seconded the motion. Votes were five (5) **for** and two (2) **opposed** (Ely, Decker) with one (1) **abstention** (Wadsworth.) **MOTION PASSED.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request for Approval to use Pelican Beach on March 21, 2026 for Community Fishing Clinic. *Marvin Racine, Pyramid Lake Fishing Guide*

Councilmember Davis said she saw a post on Facebook advertising for Reno Sparks Indian Colony on March 24, 2026. Mr. Racine said that's a booking with his guide service, his business and not his fishing clinics, which he does once a month every year. He has been doing the clinics once a month since October of last year. Councilmember Davis said she wanted to know how many times this season because they had asked him to

come back to the Council every month to let them know of his clinics. Mr. Racine said he contacts the Tribal Secretary every month for permission to use a beach via email.

Councilmember Dunn motioned to *approve the request as long as the beach remains open to all visitors*. Councilmember Decker seconded the motion.

Councilmember Cortez asked if use of the beach includes roping it off. Mr. Racine said the previous year the Council allowed him to have the beach from 6:30 am to 2:30 pm and that is what he is asking for.

Councilmember Davis said on Thursday she did a headcount of the ladders at Pelican Beach of fisherman who have paid permits, there were 53 ladders. Mr. Racine said he had 130 people at his event last year but doesn't know how many were Tribal members, but he does require those who are not members to purchase fishing permits, and there were well over 50 permits purchased for that day. Last year he didn't have any problems with others who were on the beach, he invited them to join which some did. He also offers a free breakfast with a catered lunch.

Vice Chairman Ely wanted confirmation that the 51 or so ladders that might be on the beach will be allowed to intermingle with his group and he won't restrict access. Mr. Racine said he won't restrict the beach to anyone, if there are fisherman already there, he won't kick them out. His clinics are open to everyone.

Councilmember Cortez asked that the motion be amended to keep the beach open, for it to remain open.

Councilmember Dunn amended his motion to *approve the use of Pelican Beach for the Community Fishing Clinic as long as the beach remains open*. Councilmember Decker agreed with the amended motion.

Votes were eight (8) **for** and one (1) **opposed** (Davis) with zero (0) **abstentions**. **MOTION PASSED.**

a. Approval of a Group Donation for Community Fishing Clinic.

Mr. Racine is requesting a group donation to help with food and essential items.

Councilmember John motioned to *approve the group donation request for the Community Fishing Clinic*. Councilmember Decker seconded the motion. Votes were eight (8) **for** and one (1) **opposed** (Davis) with zero (0) **abstentions**. **MOTION PASSED.**

Councilmember Cortez said because of what Councilmember Davis brought up, asked Mr. Racine to contact Reno Sparks Indian Colony to remind them of paying for that day. Councilmember Davis added because it's a Tuesday to make sure the Rangers and Beach Monitors are aware of the event he advertised without coming to the Council for approval. Mr. Racine said he didn't know he had to get approval to advertise for his business. It's a booked trip for his business. Councilmember Davis said it doesn't say on the flyer where they have to have a permit. Mr. Racine said the RSIC Education Department contacted somebody from the Tribe about the permits so they could prepay. Chairman Wadsworth had a small request because he heard that Mr. Racine does park close to the water on the beach and as a guide and Tribal member, he can do that but as a guide he should be following the rules and regulations which is no parking within 100 feet of the water. Leading by example.

2. Request for Approval of EMS Requests. Don Pelt, Fire Chief

a. Approval for the Chairman to Sign Board of Regents of Nevada System of Higher Education on behalf of Great Basin College Agreement.

Chief Pelt apologized for not being present in person as he is on his way back from training in Elko. He is requesting approval of the renewal agreement between the Tribe and Great Basin College EMS school for their paramedics to proctor new advanced EMT paramedic students as well as EMT students within our area for education purposes. There is no cost to the Tribe, and it creates a good working relationship between the Tribe and college. He is requesting for authorization for the Chairman to sign the agreement.

Councilmember Cortez asked if this was reviewed by legal. Chief Pelt said it was when it was originally approved a year ago, it's the same agreement with no changes.

Councilmember John said in the agreement she thinks the Tribe is called the institution so when they have students working with the EMS, who covers the liability in case someone gets hurt. In the agreement it states the Tribe is responsible for all liability. Chief Pelt said the school covers liability, but it says the Tribe has to carry liability insurance that it normally does for any incident. It comes back to an extension of what they are teaching at the school, and it would not be incumbent upon the Tribe. The Tribe just has to show they have coverage so their insurance company will pay it. Councilmember John asked about the patient, what happens if they get injured. Chief Pelt said if they had a patient and it was determined it was their fault the patient would be injured further then it would fall on the Tribe's insurance. They have never had an incident since they started the EMS program. Councilmember John would like legal to review this agreement.

Councilmember Davis asked how close they are to putting EMS under the clinic and if it's a go, this is between the facility and Pyramid Lake Fire and Rescue. Also, what is the timeline to get out of this contract? Chairman Wadsworth said this ties into item b, which he presented to the Health Board because it causes an issue with splitting the EMS and fire. They weren't sure if it would be an allowable cost because Medicaid is paying for the Fire Department since the first page says Pyramid Lake EMS Fire. It means there is that potential that if they didn't need to split the program because of all the job descriptions that comes with it, the clinic could theoretically provide funding for the program.

Councilmember Sampson said every time they get these agreements, regardless of the fact that they have approved them before, it still needs to go through legal review. She doesn't want to approve anything that hasn't been reviewed by legal.

Councilmember Cortez motioned to *table the request for the Chairman to sign the Great Basin College Agreement pending legal review*. Councilmember Sampson seconded the motion. Votes were nine (9) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with zero (0) **abstentions**. **MOTION PASSED**

b. Approval for the Chairman to Sign 2026-27 Nevada Health Authority Agreement for Medicaid Billing.

Chief Pelt said this renewal is their current Medicaid third party billing agreement with the State of Nevada. It requires the Chairman's signature for the 2026-27 agreement so they can collect third party Medicaid funds. There is no cost to the Tribe. This one was reviewed by legal when it was originally enacted but has not gone through legal this time due to no changes other than a new signature.

Councilmember Cortez had motioned to *table the 2026-27 Nevada Health Authority Agreement for Medicaid billing pending legal review*. Councilmember Sampson seconded the motion. Votes were nine (9) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with zero (0) **abstentions**. **MOTION PASSED**

c. Approval for the Chairman to Sign 2026-27 P-25 Public Safety Radio Addendum.

Chief Pelt explained this is an addendum agreement to the original P-25 contract for radio, public radio services that currently pays contribution fees to the county. They received the addendum or cost overrides that occurred on the construction of two new towers for the system that each contributing agency is paying based on the number of radios each department has. For example, in 2026, it will cost the Fire Department an additional \$9,430.95 and in 2027 it will cost the Fire Department \$8,808.85; for the Tribal Police Department, it will cost more because they have more radios, their contribution will be \$13,472.78 for FY26 and for FY27 it will be \$12,584.06. That is the Tribes portion of the \$4 million cost override. The P-25 is a federally funded or federally mandated and government unfunded mandate that public safety has P-25 compliant radios. That is why they are included in the agreement. The original agreement was signed by Janet Davis, who was the Chairwoman at the time, but they were unable to find the signed copy.

Chief Parsons, Pyramid Lake Police Department, explained this is the radio tower and not dispatch. To have radio contact on the Reservation, it requires four towers to have decent radio reception wherever they are. When it comes to radios, they have car radios, and handheld radios which all have an identifier which identifies each radio. Currently the Police Department, the Rangers and the Beach Monitors have radios. The 800 system they are on with the radio service is unique to this Police Department where they can go anywhere in the State and talk on their radios. They can also utilize county radios, county towers and state towers and it doesn't necessarily have to be a Washoe County tower. Again, the P-25 is a federal mandate which rolled out after Katrina to try and get interoperability with public safety but also to move them to a frequency spectrum that was for public safety but also opening up for cell phones. This has been moving in this direction for a long time. They've had to upgrade their radios over the years to make sure they are compatible.

Councilmember John asked if they pay the Tribe lease funds for those two towers or does the Tribe donate the land. Chief Parsons said he is not sure about that, but he does know they want to pay for the power. They maintain it, they fix it, they Tribe doesn't do any of that. Chairman Wadsworth said they will have to look at it but there is a possibility it might be donated only because they covered the cost of the new tower when they built it a few years ago. Chief Parsons said that Marble Bluff is one of the main towers for them. Chief Pelt said they just renewed the agreement with the County last year or the previous year and as he recalls they donated the land assignment to the County for the structure, the tower and the generator structure to be on, but they cover all the costs of maintenance, electrical and anything associated with the towers and believes the roadway going up to the tower is taken care of by Washoe County Radio. Chief Parsons added the Radio Group consists of quite a few agencies which are Washoe County Metro, Reno-Sparks, all the Fire

and EMS associated with it, REMSA, including schools, school police, UNR, Reno Sparks Indian Colony are all on this and he's sure there are many more, it's just not public safety that are on the net.

Councilmember Decker asked if it was in their budget. Chief Parsons said it's one of things they will have to make happen, it's important because they all use their radios.

Councilmember Davis motioned to *approve the Chairman to sign the 2026-27 P-25 Public Safety Radio Addendum*. Councilmember Decker seconded the motion. Votes were nine (9) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with zero (0) **abstentions**. **MOTION PASSED**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Guerrero disconnected from zoom.

Councilmember Cortez motioned to *move into Executive Session*. Councilmember Sampson seconded the motion. Votes were eight (8) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with zero (0) **abstentions**. **MOTION PASSED**. *Tribal Council moved into Executive Session at 7:59 p.m.*

Councilmember Dunn motioned to *move out of Executive Session*. Councilmember Decker seconded the motion. Votes were eight (8) **for** and zero (0) **opposed** with zero (0) **abstentions**. **MOTION PASSED**. *Tibal Council moved out of Executive Session at 9:14 p.m.*

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 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 1st day of **May 2026**, having **eight (8)** members present, constituting a quorum, by the vote of **seven (7)** FOR and **zero (0)** OPPOSED, with **zero (00)** ABSTENTIONS.

Minutes attested and concurred by: 

Steven Wadsworth, Tribal Chairman
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council

*Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council
March 6, 2026, Regular meeting*

//
//
/