

**THE HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOVELOCK MET IN A JOINT SESSION WITH THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF PERSHING AT THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ROOM ON NOVEMBER 18, 2025, AT 5:30 P.M.**

Present for City of Lovelock:	Mayor	Rodney Wilcox
	Council members	Bonnie Skoglie Kirsten Hertz Jordan McKinney
	City Clerk	Nicole Reitz
	Legal Counsel Representative	Jaren Stanton

Present for Pershing County:	Chairman	Joe Crim
	Commissioners	Connie Gottschalk Chuck Sayles
	District Attorney	Bryce Shields

Visitors: Lacey Donaldson (County Clerk), Karen Wesner (County Commission Executive Secretary), Melanie Hamilton (County Recorder), Vonnie Hemp, Amanda Burrows, Wendy Nelson, Frankie Graham, LeeAnn Gallagher, , , Ted Bendure, Bryan Ruddell, Jewel Crable  
ZOOM: Brandon Chadock, Perri Stewart, Jacky Orr, Rachel Dahl, Michelle (no last name specified)

Mayor Wilcox and Chairman Crim called the City and County meetings to order at 5:32 p.m.

**PUBLIC-PERSONAL COMMUNICATION-CORRESPONDENCE:**

Joseph Stacey from the Recycle Center addressed the City Council and County Commissioners to report a significant increase in workload and the number of hours required to keep up with growing demand. Stacey shared that there were now nine recycle cans out and relayed that the Mayor was already informed of Maverick’s request for a recycling can. However, obtaining the can had not yet been fulfilled. Stacey emphasized the additional hours spent meeting these demands and asked the Council and Commissioners to take that into consideration.

**BUSINESS IMPACT DETERMINATION:**

The Council reviewed and discussed briefly the probable effect that each agenda item for this meeting could have on a “business” as the term is defined by statute. Council member McKinney offered a motion for the City that no item on this meeting agenda appears to impose a direct and significant economic burden on a business or directly restricts the formation, operation or expansion of a business.

Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gottschalk made the same motion for the County and Commissioner Sayles seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

**JOINT AGREEMENT REGARDING TAX EXCHANGE/COST SHARING BETWEEN THE CITY OF LOVELOCK AND PERSHING COUNTY:**

Commissioner Crim stated, “this is the one that we just approved back in September.” Council member Hertz shared, “we all had the conversation at that point that we probably should go through it and make sure we’re all clear, and that we would run with it as it was for this year, but that we likely should go at it point by point. Then we make sure we're all on the same page.” Commissioner Sayles said, “I brought up last time around, that we can't change the tax structure. But our cost for the Sheriff’s Office providing dispatch and other things the County provides have gone up financially.

There was a general agreement to look at what it actually costs to provide the dispatch services and a few other things. Council member McKinney noted the value of mutual support.

McKinney stated, "I've asked the City Police to keep track of when they have to go out and help the County because this conversation continually gets brought up." She emphasized, they need to track when they go and assist with calls as well, for the next time this item brought up."

Commissioner Sayles stated, "I would like to combine the City Police Department and the Sheriff's Office, under the Sheriff's Office."

Council member McKinney replied, "We've talked about that. That'll cost the City a million dollars. That's just money we don't have; those are the numbers Sheriff Allen has brought forward."

Commissioner Gottschalk explained, "all of the Police Officers would have to be brought to the county salary schedule, that's part of that cost."

Commissioner Sayles stated, "When the City doesn't have anyone to respond, our Sheriff's Office takes over everything for you."

Mayor Wilcox noted, "You have to remember the City is actually paying more than what you're paying on your taxes in the County. Mayor Wilcox mentioned the City residents pay for the Sheriff's Office and the Police Department through their taxes, as the County Residents only pay for the Sheriff's office."

Commissioner Sayles stated, "if we join and we take your tax base and don't raise it, we could see how it would fit our structure."

Council member McKinney stated, it is almost a million dollars, Sheriff Allen has brought the numbers, the City just can't afford it.

Sayles stated, I still think we need to look at it. It's worth putting on an agenda and discussing, looking at all the different ways, we can do it."

Bryan Ruddell, County Employee asked, "Is this strictly just for police and law enforcement, or is this with City Public Works and, County Buildings and Grounds?"

Sayles replied with, "just law enforcement."

County Legal Counsel Sheilds stated, "It needs to be put on the agenda for next time. Commission Sayles stated, "If the city is willing to entertain that request, put it on the agenda for discussion or action" Both the City and the County can come to the meeting with numbers to present.'

Council member Skoglie shared," that it is a great idea that the Police be asked to keep track of their time spent.

Commissioner Gottschalk stated the Sheriff's Department can keep track as well.

Council member Hertz asked, "how do we do that?" "Do we form a committee to investigate, and what would that look like?" City Legal Counsel, Jaren Stanton stated, "I recommend that you put it on your next joint agenda, prior to that meeting, each individual board decides how they're going to go about getting those numbers and their proposals, and you do that also through an agendized item."

## **DISCUSSION ABOUT THE GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE, AND GOALS OF THE RECREATION BOARD:**

Mayor Wilcox began with stating, "I kind of went over some figures today. There's 12% tax, 9.5% of it goes to the fair and rec (Recreation Board). I was under the impression that if decided, we could split that money up a little bit we could use that for what we want, but after clarification and understanding the funds can only be used for fair recreation and tourism."

County Legal Counsel Sheilds stated, "Statute specifically sets it forth for those things, but I don't feel like the statute is limiting on what recreation means. So long as it's not something completely outside, recreation, tourism, economic development, all those things are kind of intermingled with each other."

Mayor Wilcox stated, "So the budget for the Fair and Rec Board is about \$200,000.00. I don't know if any of you have looked at that budget. Some of the stuff that they spend money on is not something that helps the City out, probably doesn't help the County out either. I think we need a little more representation, the city does, on that board."

Community member LeeAnn Gallagher spoke up stating, "It's specific in the NRS as to who can serve on that board."

Council member Hetz asked how the board is structured currently. Council member McKinney stated it consists of a Council member, County Commissioner, School Board, Community member, and Business Owner. Council member Hertz asked if it is a requirement for there to be hotel owner or manager because it is room tax dollars.

Commissioner Gottschalk stated "Yes, either a hotel owner or manager."

Commissioner Gottschalk stated, "It seems like unilateral decisions are made by the Rec board (Recreation Board) as to how this money is allotted. That never comes before the City Council or County Commission. So, in essence, there is no accountability, there is no governing body that approves where this money goes."

Council member McKinney said, "That's why you have a person at the table. Commissioner Crim's job is to speak for the County Commissioners, mine is for the City. If there's something you don't want money spent on, then that is Commissioner Crim's job to speak on behalf of the County."

LeeAnn Gallagher stated, "I think it is more so far from what it was when it was started. At the meetings I've gone to, I didn't see a criterion that had to be met. People would go, ask for a lump sum of money, and if that board determined they should get it, they'd get it. The Boys & Girls Club got a lot of money, but so did other organizations, please don't just point out the Boys & Girls Club."

Mayor Wilcox mentioned the Boys and Girls Club was just the biggest ticket item." "They spend money on fireworks, schools, youth organizations, it does get spent well. We probably should be more involved, by making sure we attend the meetings, to see what's going on."

Commissioner Gottschalk mentions, "A lot of stuff approved by the Rec Board does not fall into the required criteria. I just think it's misappropriation because it's written what it's supposed to be used for, and I don't feel that it is."

Business owner Wendy Nelson asked, "Are we following the NRS code, or is it kind of like following it a little bit?"

Lacey Donaldson, County Clerk stated, "This Board is not set up under the Fair and Rec NRS. When the Board was formed, the intent was to move away from those two statutes."

Council member Skoglie stated, "Do you think it's fair now to re-examine that?"

Legal Counsel Shields stated "Yes, it could be our intent now to follow NRS."

Commissioner Gottschalk stated, "It's kind of just turned into a whatever we feel like and there are no set guidelines, it's very vague."

Council member Hertz stated, "Maybe we should look at the statute that determines those parameters and see the options for how that work could be structured, including maybe separate boards or expanded accountability."

Legal Counsel Shields stated, if you want to build a Tourism Board under NRS, and a Fair and Rec board, then you are going to have two different governing bodies. The Tourism board under NRS is a governing board, not an advisory board. So, the City and the County would not have control over it. The purpose of melding the two under one ordinance was so the City and the County would have a measure of control over how the tourism dollars and recreation dollars were being allocated. Shields stated that before we undo all of this the City and the County should have a little more accountability and oversight for how those dollars are being spent. Shields also mentioned, "The accountability lies with the City and County reps (representatives)."

Commissioner Sayles stated that the Board could come with more specific guidelines and use the NRS.

Commissioner Gottschalk mentioned, "A lot of the Boards have quarterly reports, so the public can see. The public is told things are being done, but they don't get to see the numbers. It should be reported for transparency purposes."

Legal Counsel Shields shared, "There are quarterly reports, it is set up that way, I can't vouch that its being done that way."

Mayor Wilcox stated they have a budget. Legal Counsel Shields also mentioned that there is budget and there is quarterly reporting.

Council member McKinney stated, "There are after action reports, I see them, but as for being able to say who they all are at the moment it is just not possible, there are activities that go on all year. If someone doesn't do an after-action report, they're not supposed to get funding next year."

Community member Lee Ann Gallagher stated, "I have been to a Rec Board meeting where an individual who didn't even show up was awarded money, they weren't there to present for the \$5,000.00 and one of the Rec board member stated he's a nice guy let's give it to him. That's not criteria."

Legal Counsel Shields, said, "I have been going to those meetings for years, and there are those instances where someone can't show up, without question. I can't think of a single instance when that's happened where the applicant hasn't already established a year's long relationship with the Rec board."

Gallagher said, "Well-being a nice guy isn't criteria."

Shields replied with, "When I hear things like that it is an offhand remark. I think underlying is that they have established a relationship with the Rec Board, they submit their application and after-action reports. If, for whatever reason, they can't be there that night the Rec Board is going to fund their event."

Commissioner Gottschalk stated "Let's look at what the guidelines are and what we want the money to be used for. Maybe set aside funds for park maintenance or upgrade projects that benefit both

the City and County. Define what dollars are available for what and make accountability and transparency a priority.”

Legal counsel for both the City and the County was tasked to prepare a memo outlining how the Board is currently set up, the funds and duties, and what changes may be possible within the law.

Council member Skoglie asked, “How often is the Rec board supposed to meet, what is the requirement?”

Commissioner Gottschalk stated that the Recreation Board should meet at least once every other month and may hold additional meetings as necessary. Council member Skoglie stated she has had the public state they have an issue that the Recreation Board doesn’t meet on a regular basis, sometimes for several months. Council member McKinney stated, “If there is nothing on the Agenda, then what’s the point of meeting?”

Commissioner Gottschalk stated, “You can share that there were so many events last month, here’s the after-action report.

Council member Hertz stated we have already established that we are not doing what we want to do. If we rework it, then that can be a change. This is going to take a minute.

Community member Amanda Burrows asked the question, “Is the Rec board under the same rules as far as posting the agendas, minute, open meeting law?” Shields replied, “Yes.”

Council member Skoglie asked, “So Legal Counsel for the County and Legal Counsel for the City are going to put something together for us?”

Shields stated, “The annual meeting is in February. If you’d like a meeting before that, we can prepare something.”

#### **DISCUSSION ABOUT THE GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE, AND GOALS OF THE PERSHING COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:**

The group discussed that there has not been a replacement hired for the previous economic development coordinator, Heidi Lusby. Commissioner Sayles, stated he didn’t see the need to.” Council Member Hertz disagreed but stated, “that’s a different point.” Commissioner Gottschalk stated that the County’s immediate priority is the recruitment of a County Manager. It was stated, “Right now, the county is focused on a County Manager first, and then we’ll move on to an economic development position.”

Council member Skoglie stated that the PCEDA board currently has two members whose terms have expired. Additionally, one member (not mentioned in the discussion but referenced as having moved out of town) needs to be replaced, and another member has not been attending meetings, either not being present or disconnecting immediately after joining Zoom, which makes it impossible to achieve a quorum to conduct business. Mayor Wilcox stated, this item is not on the agenda, we should move on. Commissioner Gottschalk discussed the framework of the PCEDA, its membership structure, statutory obligations, and what options and processes exist for reform or improvement. Legal Counsel Shields emphasized the need for legal from both entities too prepare a memo describing the current framework of the PCEDA. The conclusion reached was that both City and County will collaboratively review the legal memo and defer any further board appointments or staffing actions until a joint decision can be made based on this analysis at a future meeting. There was agreement that this approach will provide both entities with a clear understanding and a unified path forward.

**DISCUSSION ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT AND INSTALLATION OF AN AMERICAN RAMS SKATE PARK:**

Commissioner Gottschalk discussed the prospect of developing and installing a new American Ramps Skate Park within the community. Gottschalk explained that this initiative had been considered in the past and is intended to address recreational gaps, particularly for teenagers and young adults aged 12–25, who currently have limited activity options. The proposed skate park is described as significantly larger and more advanced than the city’s existing skate park, with the potential to host Olympic-quality or national-level competitions. The developer, experienced in projects across the country, offers to assist with grant funding, matching funds, and coordination with local industries for possible in-kind contributions like site preparation. Council member Skoglie expressed excitement about the project, highlighting community benefits, youth engagement, and interest generated by similar projects in other towns, one recent event reportedly drew over 500 people, including visitors from nearby cities. Commissioner Joe Crim expressed concerns regarding the level of usage and maintenance of the current skate park, which has been cited for persistent vandalism and underuse by local residents. Crim also noted that, “Even with the people who did use it...it was mostly people off the interstate,” rather than community youth. Discussions concluded with support for further exploration of the skate park idea. The group agreed to invite the project developer to present detailed information to both the City Council and County Commission. This next step would allow for more concrete consideration of funding options, projected impact, and practical challenges.

**PUBLIC-PERSONAL COMMUNICATION-CORRESPONDENCE:**

Amanda Burrows, a local resident, addressed the Council and Commissioners to share her perspective on the ongoing discussion about possibly consolidating City Police with the County Sheriff’s office. Burrows suggested that, since the decision would have the greatest impact on city residents, both financially and in terms of services, it might make sense for city residents to have a deciding voice in any vote or decision.

In response, Legal Counsel Shields provided a detailed explanation of the legal process for merging the City Police Department with the County Sheriff’s Office. He clarified that, according to state law, both the City and County would need to pass their own ordinances for consolidation to occur. Any public vote, if held, could only be advisory in nature and not legally binding.

Mayor Wilcox and Commissioner Crim adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

*Rodney Wilcox*  
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Rodney Wilcox, Mayor

*Nicole Reitz*  
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Nicole Reitz, City Clerk