LAUGHLIN TOWN ADVISORY BOARD
REGIONAL GOVERNMENT CENTER
101 CIVIC WAY
LAUGHLIN, NEVADA 89029
(702) 298-0828
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NOTICE AND CALL OF SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

LAUGHLIN TOWN ADVISORY BOARD

April 29, 2014
1:30 P.M.

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT CENTER
101 CIVIC WAY, LAUGHLIN, NEVADA

MEMBERS PRESENT: **James Vincent, Chair**
Fred Doten, Vice-Chair
Roger Burtraw
Pamela Walker

MEMBERS ABSENT: **Charles Minerman (excused)**

OTHERS PRESENT: **89 Guests Signed In**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair James Vincent called the meeting to order.

Please ***turn off*** all cell phones, pagers & other electronic devices.

Please take all private conversations outside the room.

A. Conformance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law.

B. Invocation was led by **Pastor Doug Westly** and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Roger Burtraw**

C. Items on the agenda may be taken out of order.

D. The Laughlin Town Advisory Board may combine two or more agenda items for consideration.

E. The Laughlin Town Advisory Board may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item at any time.

2. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

A. Approval of the **April 29, 2014** Agenda. **For Possible Action**

Pamela Walker moved, **Fred Doten** seconded to approve as presented the **April 29, 2014** Laughlin Town Advisory Board Agenda. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 4-0-1

3. COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC:

This is a period devoted to comments by the general public about items on *this* agenda. If you wish to speak to the Board about items within its jurisdiction but not appearing on this agenda, you must wait until the "Comments by the General Public" period listed at the end of this agenda. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes. Please step up to the speaker's podium, clearly state your name and address and *spell* your last name for the record. If any member of the Board wishes to extend the length of a presentation, this will be done by the Chair or the Board by majority vote. The Board retains the discretion to take additional public comments during times other than during a Public Hearing or during the Public Comment Sessions. In all other instances, a citizen may speak on any matter before the Board for consideration, after receiving recognition and consent of the Chairman of the Board.

4. COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND CONCERNS

A. Discuss the announced closure of the University Medical Center Laughlin Quick Care Center and take any action deemed necessary

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Lt. John Healy started the discussion regarding the UMC proposed closure and explained how the closure would affect the Metropolitan Police Department here in Laughlin.
Metro uses UMC for a variety of situations and said by not having this facility and having no other options but to use Bullhead City, AZ or drive the 100 miles to Las Vegas it would take the officers off the street and Metro would not be able to provide the level of security needed for this community.

Town Manager Jackie Brady read a detailed report providing statistics, the hardships and future impacts the UMC closure would have here in Laughlin and the surrounding area, Including Searchlight and Cal-Nev-Ari.

James Vincent read in part some of the letters that the LTAB received from concerned citizens and business owners who all oppose the UMC closure.
James Vincent also went on to say this decision was immoral and not thought through as to how the closure would impact this community.

Sharon Burchett, Registered Nurse currently employed at UMC Laughlin but made it clear she is not here as an employee or a representative of UMC but is here as a citizen of Laughlin.
Sharon Burchett said she has with her today over 400 signatures on a petition from residents and visitors alike, people that are concerned about the loss of affordable, accessible Health

Care in Laughlin.

Sharon Burchett also stated her concern at the distance between Laughlin and Bullhead City and lack of affordable transportation. According to Sharon Burchett there are three Urgent Care facilities in Bullhead City and only one will accept NV Medicaid.

Deb Dauenhauer, Executive Director Silver River the largest rural public transportation in the state of Nevada. Silver Rider provides approximately 1200 rides a month from the senior community and about 85-90% of those rides are for medical purposes and many of those destinations are to the UMC Quick Care. This does not include the two hundred plus rides a month for the disabled.
Deb Dauenhauer stated she does not understand how UMC can ethically and morally abandon the entire community.

Meghan Earley Laughlin, NV said she was the newest Laughlin resident; she has been here only one week. Meghan Earley said her decision to move here was based on the fact there was a local medical center since she is currently going blind and felt this was a safe community to live and is close to her family. After checking with her insurance plan there is not a Doctor in Bullhead City that accepts her insurance. The closest Doctor that accepts her insurance is in Henderson, NV which is 90 miles away.
Meghan Earley would like UMC to reconsider and keep the clinic open.

James Vincent said the information flyer that UMC sent out to the community in regards to the closest Quick care was not accurate and out dated.

Mary Canfield commented she moved to Laughlin in September of 2013 and that she is going to write letters to UMC in opposition of the closure. **Mary Canfield** also commented that she was disappointed that Commissioner Sisolak and Senator Harry Reid were not here.

Jim Maniaci Laughlin, NV commented that the UMC decision was unexpected and unfortunate. Jim Maniaci stated Laughlin is being judged again by urban standards instead of rural and what are the standards?
Jim Maniaci pointed out again where will the people go for medical care and how will they get there? These are major obstacles, and we also need to take in consideration of the part time residents.

Buddy Borden, UNCE Community Economic Development. **Buddy Borden** stated he was here not to speak as a resident but part of the University of Nevada cooperative extension and has worked in this area and statewide for over twenty years. He works community and economic development issues and analyses.
Buddy Borden talked about what medical services means to a rural community. He stated medical services could mean the difference of a community flourishing or stagnating.

Ginger Gates, Executive Director with the American Center for Educational Opportunities Inc. This is a non-profit organization that develops projects for rural veterans, survivor families in the tri-state area. One of the major concerns is connecting Veterans and their families with their benefits. She also explained that using the Arizona Medical facilities which

do not accept NV Medicaid the veterans and their families would have to pay this out of pocket which many cannot afford. 80% of the veterans in this area are over the age of 75 and living entirely on their pensions.
Ginger Gates asked that UMC consider extending the closing date so that would give them time to contact and work with Rural Health USDA Rural Development and possibly setting up a rural health clinic in Laughlin. There are Grant funding, loans and we can set up our own rural health clinics here to take care of the rural residents.
Ginger Gates stated that UMC does not understand the concerns that Laughlin has with the lack of transportation.
Ginger Gates ended by saying she hopes that Rural Health would be considered.

Roy Garner, Ft Mohave, AZ stated is concern for the elderly people in Laughlin.

Noel Petrohilos, Laughlin, NV working in the Insurance industry Mr. Petrohilos stated he and his wife have a small practice and do a lot of work helping people with the Affordable Care Act, helping people get registered for Medicaid and also do a lot of work with Medicare beneficiaries.
Noel Petrohilos stated he felt blindsided by the news of UMC closing and said he felt angered and disappointed and felt helpless. He said he has written e-mails to Senator Harry Reid, Assemblyman Joe Hardy, Assemblywoman Melissa Woodbury, Senator Dean Heller, and UMC. He said he received responses back from Dean Heller and UMC.
Noel Petrohilos also said another issue is not only having to find a new health care provider who is in your network but finding a Doctor who is accepting new patients.

Jordan Ross, Laughlin Constable stated he has received calls regarding the closure and how this is going to hurt this community. Although UMC is not trying to deliberately hurt people there was clearly a lack of communication. There is also a lack of understanding from UMC on how this is going to impact the Laughlin community.
Jordan Ross also has the same concerns regarding transportation, Doctor Offices accepting the Nevada insurances in Arizona but feels the biggest problem is the communication from UMC. No one has heard from them. Nobody has reached out until this morning when Mr. Bernard called this morning. Jordan Ross made it clear that the May 31st closure date is not acceptable.

Sharon Fortier Laughlin, NV found out about 10 days ago that UMC was closing. This prompted her to write a few letters, one to Commissioner Sisolak since it was her understanding he was on the board of trustees at UMC but he did not reply. She also wrote Congressman Joe Heck and received a reply which she read.

Nancy Teppler Laughlin, NV moved here last year in September 2013. After finally getting her insurance set up and a Doctor that she could use in her network, which happened to be at UMC Dr. Dreyer and then she found out of the closure. She also asked the question as to why patients were not informed about the closure either by mail, email, or telephone. Given this lack of communication this could cause a life altering affect to the patients and is simply unacceptable. She also asked what steps have been taken to find additional funding through grants or other means in order to keep the Laughlin Quick Care open.

Randy Williams Laughlin, NV said he is a realtor here in Laughlin and Laughlin has a good reputation as being a retirement community. But since the announcement of the UMC pending closure he had two people call him to say that they might have to sell their homes and move to Las Vegas or another location in order to get medical care. **Mr. Williams** said he also had calls from people who were considering re-locating here to Laughlin and have now post-pone their decision, again due to the pending closure.
He said it is very important to seniors to know they have good medical care available to them and not have to travel 100 miles or go to another state.
Randy Williams went on to say if the clinic closes the future of this community is in jeopardy.

Danita Cohen Administration at UMC and would like to say we absolutely care**. UMC** cares for patients in Clark County that no one else takes cares of. But UMC cannot be all things to all people. This decision was made so we could keep the burn center, transplant center, the trauma center and children's hospital open. These centers are not available anywhere else in Nevada. These decisions are tough and the impacts and consequences are felt, and I have listened to all of you and understand what it is like to live in a very small community and have to travel for your basic medical needs.
We have looked into perhaps extending the time line, so we might be able to do that. I wish I had some wonderful news to share with you, but I can say once again these decisions were not easy, they were not made over night they were made knowing that the people of Laughlin will be impacted. But they were made knowing UMC had to do something to keep UMC viable as a whole.

James Vincent asked if **Danita Cohen** could tell him specifically what the losses are for Laughlin UMC because other same type clinics in Arizona have stated they were not losing money.
Danita Cohen answered the question. She said the clinic losses $1,000,000 a year which is a lot based on the number of visits per year. UMC's budget was cut by $20,000,000 so we need to make up that money.
James Vincent Stated you can look for your cuts in greater Las Vegas area, there are more options there and for here you are taking away the only option and that is immoral.

Pam Walker said she was appalled finding out of the closure. **Pam Walker** suggested forming a committee to find a solution into keeping the Clinic open.

Fred Doten said he did not understand why this community was not informed and did not have a chance to participate with the decision to close UMC. Why just a drop a bomb on the community and told to live with it. It's wrong.
Fred Doten stated he would spend his time to work with anybody that wants to sit down and look at solutions to make sure that we can keep health care in this town for the people.

Roger Burtraw thanked **Danita Cohen** for being here and that this was not pleasant. **Roger Burtraw** provided financial comparisons between closing Quick Cares in Las Vegas and closing the Laughlin Quick Care. He pointed out that in Las Vegas UMC will not lose revenue since people have other UMC's to go to. Here in Laughlin the people will have no choice but to use other clinics and UMC will lose that revenue.

James Vincent talked about the difference and challenges here than from Las Vegas. There are no choices here.
Danita Cohen said she completely understands why Laughlin feels like UMC is leaving them without medical care and **James Vincent** said you are.
Roger Burtraw cautioned UMC that the cost could be higher when the clinic is closed than it is right now. **James Vincent & Roger Burtraw** said there is revenue there and said there was operational issues with-in the organization including the billing of patients.
James Vincent went on to say he doesn't believe that **Lawrence Barnard** has the right information to make good decisions for Laughlin. This includes the flyer that was sent out to the community with available clinics in Arizona. The first clinic on the flyer has been out of business for two years.
Danita Cohen stated the flyer has been revised with correct information.
James Vincent said there should be no reason for UMC to be losing money compared to other clinics of the same stature in Arizona. We want UMC to be successful and provide for the community but the community does not start and end in Las Vegas and you are funded by Clark County and this includes Laughlin.

Danita Cohen said the staff at the Laughlin Quick Care will be taking phone calls there. There are specific patients who have specific question and we will be more than happy to help them navigate the system.

Julie Fairman from Nevada Times said she would like to ask a question of Ms. Cohen it concerns a statement in the prepared statement that was sent out by UMC. Specifically you mentioned that one of the reasons why this is being closed is that funds need to be set aside for the burn, transplant and trauma units however in that prepared statement your CEO said that despite the fact that they were closing these four clinics including the one in Laughlin that he would be looking for new locations to open new clinics and go forward and I would like to have that addressed.

Danita Cohen responded to **Julie Fairman's** question by saying the first step in trying to not balance our budget but try to make Clark County subsidies shrink, we have to make some cuts. However both **Larry Bernard** and our new advisory board and the County Commissions realize that you can't cut your way to the top and keep cutting and expect to have a balanced budget. So the next thing we will be doing is looking at different revenue strings. Sometimes in order to make revenue you have to spend money.

Jim Combs Laughlin, NV Said he chose Laughlin to live because it was large enough to have a clinic but small enough to have only one High school. He stated we needed to keep Laughlin alive.

James Vincent would like to approve a motion to send a letter addressed to all seven County Commissioners, UMC Trustees and Governing Board and urge them to keep Laughlin UMC open and to discuss and reconsider maintaining the UMC Quick Care operations in Laughlin. Also to include how Laughlin is different than Las Vegas in regards to the Health Care and look into using town funds to supplement the clinic.
Fred Doten second the motion, motion passed upon a voice vote 4-0-1. Charles Minerman Excused absence.

5. ZONING:

A. PREVIOUS ZONING ACTIONS: None

Previous Zoning Actions. *(For additional information see Clark County web site on the Internet at: http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/Depts/public_communications/Pages/Agendas.aspx then go to NOFA (Notice of Final Action) on the month and date the item was heard and look for the item number (i.e. UC-0000-11). To hear the audio minutes go to the Clark County Website at: http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/depts/admin_services/laughlin/Pages/LaughlinTownAdvisoryBoard.aspx*

B. **CURRENT ZONING ACTIONS:**

Zoning application UC-0201-14 has been re-scheduled per the applicant's request to the next Laughlin Town Advisory Board Meeting Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at 1:30pm.

To the PC 05/20/2014

Zoning Appeal Process: Planning Commission and Board of County Commission meetings are both held at the Clark County Government Center, Commission Chambers, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89155-1841. Planning Commission Meetings are scheduled on the first & third Tuesdays of each month and the following Thursdays at 7:00 PM. Board of County Commissioners Zoning Meetings is scheduled on Wednesdays at 9:00 AM following the first & third Tuesdays of each month***. If you appeal a Planning Commission action, you must be present at the Board of County Commissioners meeting to present your appeal.*** Appeals are made by filling out a "Filing an Appeal" form, available from the Department of Comprehensive Planning, Current Planning Division. You may call Current Planning at (702) 455-4314 to request the form. Once in the automated phone system, press Option #2, listen closely to the options and press Option #2 again. This will connect you to a person who can help you with the appeal form. Once you have filled out the appeal form, fax it to (702) 455-3271, then call (702) 455-4314 to verify the appeal form was received and ask when it will be heard by the Board of County Commissioners. ***Appeals must be done within five (5) judicial (business) days from the time the item was heard by the Planning Commission.***

6. COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC: This is a period for the Public to comment on items within the jurisdiction of the Laughlin Town Advisory Board, but not appearing on this agenda. If any member of the Board wishes to extend the length of their comments, this will be done by the Chairman or the Board by majority vote. When speaking during a specific item or during the Public Comments sessions, please step up to the speaker's podium, clearly state your name and address – please spell your name for the record – and limit your comments to no more than three (3) minutes. No vote may be taken on any matter not listed on the posted agenda.

7. NEXT POSSIBLE MEETING DATE: The next regular scheduled meeting is Tuesday May 13, 2014 at the Regional Government Center, 101 Civic Way, Laughlin, Nevada. Agenda items due no later than May 1, 2014.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:53pm James Vincent moved Fred Doten seconded. Motion approved 4-0-1

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I. THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE LAUGHLIN TOWN ADVISORY BOARD OF CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA, SHALL GENERALLY BE HELD ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH. ADDITIONALLY A MEETING NORMALLY SHALL OCCUR ON THE LAST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH UNLESS FORMALLY CHANGED TO ANOTHER DAY OF THE WEEK, WHEN THERE ARE LAND USE ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED. THE MEETINGS ARE VIDEO-TAPED BY THE LAUGHLIN TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE AND SHOWN ON CHANNEL 14. FOR PROGRAMMING INFORMATION, CALL THE LAUGHLIN TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE AT (702) 298-0828. THE LAUGHLIN TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE KEEPS THE OFFICIAL RECORD OF ALL PROCEEDINGS OF THE LAUGHLIN TOWN ADVISORY BOARD.

II. IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A COMPLETE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF ALL PROCEEDINGS, ANY PHOTOGRAPH, MAP, CHART, OR ANY OTHER DOCUMENT USED IN ANY PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE LAUGHLIN TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE. IF MATERIALS ARE TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE LAUGHLIN TOWN ADVISORY BOARD, PLEASE PROVIDE SEVEN (7) COPIES FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THE LAUGHLIN TOWN ADVISORY BOARD (FIVE COPIES), AND THE LAUGHLIN STAFF TABLE (TWO COPIES).

III. THE TOWN HALL IS ACCESSIBLE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

IV. **COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC**: A PERIOD DEVOTED TO COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT MATTERS RELEVANT TO THE BOARD'S JURISDICTION WILL BE HELD. NO VOTE MAY BE TAKEN ON A MATTER NOT LISTED ON THE POSTED AGENDA. COMMENTS WILL BE *LIMTIED TO THREE MINUTES*. PLEASE STEP UP TO THE SPEAKER'S PODIUM, CLEARLY STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS AND PLEASE SPELL YOUR LAST NAME FOR THE RECORD. IF ANY MEMBER OF THE BOARD WISHES TO EXTEND THE LENGTH OF A PRESENTATION, THIS WILL BE DONE BY THE CHAIRMAN OR BY THE BOARD BY A MAJORITY VOTE. *ALL COMMENTS BY SPEAKERS SHOULD BE RELEVANT TO BOARD ACTION AND JURISDICTION.*

These minutes are in draft form and will be formally approved at the June 10, 2014 meeting.
Any corrections to these minutes will be reflected in the meeting minutes of the July 8, 2014 meeting.