City Council Meeting

Minutes

Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 6:00 pm

PLEASE NOTE: THE COUNCIL MEMBERS MAY ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS OUT OF SEQUENCE, COMBINE TWO OR MORE AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION, REMOVE AN ITEM OR DELAY DISCUSSION AT ANY TIME TO ACCOMMODATE PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OR TO AID IN THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MEETINGS.

MEETING LOCATION

Caliente Council Chambers - 100 Depot Ave., Caliente, NV
Also available virtually via Microsoft Teams Meeting:
https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting
Meeting ID: 247 860 118 384 453
Passcode: 6vq3pM7L

1. **Opening Activities:**
   a. **Call to Order**

      Minutes:
      Mayor Rowe called to order at 6pm.

   b. **Pledge of Allegiance**

      Minutes:
      Pledge of Allegiance recited.

   c. **Roll Call**

      Minutes:
      Present: Mayor Steve Rowe, Betsy Comella, Sean FitzSimons, George "Tommy" Rowe, Joseph Livreri, City Attorney Shain Manuele, City Clerk Stephanie Frank, Public Works Manager Justin Brackenbury, Building Inspector Jamin Hunter, Members of the public (See sign-in sheet) Joseph Livreri absent, Jamin Hunter, absent.

   d. **Opening Remarks**

      Minutes:
      None

   e. **Confirmation of Compliance with Nevada Open Meeting Law**

Minutes:
City Clerk Frank confirms compliance with Nevada Open Meeting Law.

2. **Public Comment**

Minutes:
Diedre Mower "Since we have two agenda items that are about the community and visitor center, I just wanted to give you guys kind of a progress report of where we're at. I've made copies for you all as well as extras for anybody else in the room that wants to come pick them up. I'll leave them on the table. But some highlights are we have been open for 88 days of operations and averaged 12 visitors per day, which the total number of visitors is more than the total population of this community. So that's cool that we had essentially the entire, enough people to equal the entire community coming in in just three months of operation. We've had 14 story times with an average of eight kids per event and almost 700 hours of volunteer time donated to our cause here. So there's more, I'm not going to bore you all with it, but I will give each of you guys a copy and put the stack here for anybody else who wants it?" Diedre Mower gives the council a stat sheet.

3. **Consent Agenda**

   a. **Approve/Deny Payment of Bills received by Council**

   Minutes:
   Councilmember George Rowe moves for approval of the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Comella seconds the motion. All in Favor, motion carries.

   Vote results:
   Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

   b. **Approve/Deny Meeting Minutes for September 3, 2026 City Council Meeting**

   Minutes:
   Councilmember George Rowe moves for approval of the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Comella seconds the motion. All in Favor, motion carries.

   Vote results:
   Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

   c. **Approve /Deny Business License Application for Reliance Fire Protection Inc.**
   Farzin Hakimi (Tony)

   Minutes:
   Councilmember George Rowe moves for approval of the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Comella seconds the motion. All in Favor, motion carries.

   Vote results:
   Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

   d. **Approve /Deny Business License Application for Side Tea Himitsu**
   Jamie Van Roekel

   Minutes:
   Councilmember George Rowe moves for approval of the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Comella seconds the motion. All in Favor, motion carries.

Vote results:
Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

4. County Associate Reporting

a. Discussion of Issues Related to Public Safety
Fire Chief George Rowe / L.C. Sheriff's Department

Minutes:
Sherrif Foremaster "Good evening, Caliente. Just going to give a brief update on our, since you guys didn't have a meeting last time, I'm going to give the report on our August activity. We had a total of 539 calls. Of course, that's primarily law enforcement, but there is EMS and fire mixed in there too. We had five death investigations, conducted 213 traffic stops. There were 27 booked into our detention center. Of those 27, I'm not going to break them all down, but I believe we had like 6 drug arrests throughout our county and then four domestic batteries. We had a sexual assault. And then our current population, at least at the end of August, fluctuates a little bit. We had 44 inmates. 31 of those were contract inmates and we submitted a little over $95,000 in billing for August. That's the report that I provided you guys for August. Since it's October 1, I'll have a September report in the next meeting. But I'm here if you have any questions, concerns, or something we can do better as a sheriff's office for the city of Caliente let us know and we'll try and accommodate." Councilmember Comella "No, thank you. It's been great seeing you guys upstairs in the space on the 2nd floor on a pretty regular basis." Sherrif Foremaster "We're hoping to get our computer in there sooner than later, but we're waiting for our IT to get the computer all decked out. But we're doing our training and stuff in there now. Yeah, thank you." Councilmember Comella "I know that you'll probably talk about this on your September, but being that Labor Day was September, could you give us just a brief summary of Labor Day was busy this year, not as busy?" Sherrif Foremaster "Yeah, it was fairly busy. I mean, a lot of people, I'm sure a lot of you were at MPH, a lot of people as normal. We didn't have a, you know, a lot of people that was causing problems, but we did have our share of arrests. I know arrests aren't everything, but we did. We did have a few things that made our officers busy. But overall, it was a success for the community in PH and for the county. Thank you."

b. Lincoln County Commissioners Report
Diane Path

Minutes:
Commissioner Reese "Good evening. For the record, Mike Reese, Lincoln County Commissioner. A couple of items. I did get to talk with NDOT. I talked with Mario last week. We had our state NACO conference in Tahoe, and Mario drove up there and met with him three times concerning the bridge down there. So I've done a little bit of research. I talked to HCP today because my remedy was going to affect part of the wash and I want to make sure you're in compliance. You guys are all paid up with HCP stuff. I did find out the city owns that. Maybe you guys already knew that. I didn't because I kind of wondered who do we got to get the approvals from and my recommendation from them and they like the idea was the 100 foot right away that they have, once it's

cleaned out, they want to concrete the bottom and the two sides. Number one, it'll solve, you can get equipment down in there that's not going to sink into the river wash, the bank. And #2, it'll be a lot easier and everything to maintain and clean up. So they are going to go out to contract. I don't know if they're going to end up doing it their self, but they did admit it's their responsibility to clean that stuff out. So I'm like, okay. It was a very positive, and they are going to come back to the county in November. So there will be a meeting up at the courthouse in November with Tracy, the director, Tracy Larkin will be there. So if you guys have any questions, I cordially invite you guys to come on up and voice your concerns as well. Okay. RTC, the next RTC meeting is going to be the 12th of October at 3.30 in the afternoon at the Town Center. We are going to start moving the RTC meetings to the commission chambers only because we have the audio video up there and anybody you guys can all call in. Other than that, any questions for me 100 feet. They can only go, they have 100 foot right away. So from the center of the road, it goes 50 feet to the right and 50 feet to the left. They're responsible for that. The city's responsible for everything else in the wash, but we've got silver days and stuff like that down in there. I said, okay, how do we go about doing that when I contacted HCP today and they're like, okay, yeah, you guys, you guys can do that. Not you guys, the NDOT can do that. It's going to cost a bunch of money. I'm not saying they're going to do it, but that was my recommendation to them. Rather than just clean it out, that's going to be an every year occurrence. Let's get some concrete in there, kind of like you guys have up coming out of Antelope Canyon. at least the sides are done, but the bottom's not and it keeps washing it out. So that's kind of where we're at right now." Councilmember George Rowe "Just make a hole under there." Commissioner Reese "Yeah, it did do the bank right there and then do the bottom underneath. Absolutely, yeah. That's the bottleneck for the county, you know, down here. You guys got pretty good rain last week. We hardly got anything in Panaca. I just chuckled because I'm like, how can Caliente get all of that and we don't hardly get anything. So, but it does work that way." Councilmember Comella "A new commissioner?" Commissioner Reese "A new commissioner? Good question. Yes and no. The yes part is because Commissioner Path did not fill half of her term, okay, that would, the statute is vague. I can't believe that it's that vague, but the general counsel is looking at that and technically, you'd probably have to hold a special election. Okay, so you're going to spend $40,000 for a special election for a $30,000 a year job. It doesn't pencil out. So I said, well, what's our alternative? He says, well, you know, the term ends on December 31st. So if you waited till January 1st, then the governor could appoint somebody. The governor did not want to appoint and then have somebody filed a suit against them because they didn't conform to the statute. And the general counsel of the statute is vague. I'm going, how? I haven't read it, so I don't know how vague it can be, but that's where we sit. So I think, well, let me back up. The governor's website is supposed to be opened back up now to take applications. It was open. There was one application filed and then it closed. We didn't know that. Lisa Lloyd didn't know that, but we were told it's back up and it's opening. I have not verified that, but they are going to take any applications up until probably December. If they wait, if they, if they wait and until December, the first week of

December, when everybody else is sworn back in, and then go ahead and appoint somebody." Councilmember Comella "Thanks, Commissioner. I just wanted to tell you thank you too. It has come to my attention over the last couple of weeks how much effort you've been putting into trying to help us with this bridge situation. I just want you to know how much we all appreciate it." Commissioner Reese "Yeah, you're welcome. Well, I'm going to live here the rest of my life and I want the best for whatever the county can get, regardless whether it's a city or the county. We're all Lincoln County, and that's how I look at it. So whatever's going to benefit the city is also going to benefit the residents of Lincoln County." Councilmember FitzSimons "Real quick, Mike, when you talked to Mario and he helped us out with 317 last year, did he mention anything about the Army Corps of Engineers in that office? " Commissioner Reese "He didn't, but you guys have. So I've said, I basically, the first question I asked is, who's responsible for that? I said, and the reason, and I said, before you answered me, remember, you guys have the 100 foot right of way. So I was telling him, you know, you're responsible for it. And he admitted, yes, we are. I have not talked to Carl here to see what conversation has gone on, but I did talk to Patty Anici, who is the rep for rural counties across the state. So I met with her and Mario at the same time on three different occasions in about a four day period. So they were there at the NACO just because they wanted to come and talk to me because I'd send an e-mail, Steve, I think I even copied you on it with Tracy Larkin, and she said, yes, I will meet with you guys anytime. So when they met with me, they said, hey, we plan on coming back down there in November, which I thought was great. So the more eyes we can put on this, I think the better for it." Councilmember FitzSimons "Exactly, and that's what I was going to bring up. I put a call into Catherine Cortez Masto's office, and she has, she's kind of in the ear of the Army Corps of Engineers that have those original blueprints of that bridge. So if we could somehow marry that with the NDOT, and so they kind of see how what the original plans were in the process of that bridge. Yeah. Like Councilman Rowe said, we put that cement down in there and it still has sediment to clean out underneath it." Commissioner Reese "Yes, but it will be easier to do. But yeah, every time we have rain, we're going to have sediment. I mean, you could see it's moving from the north down here. You guys end up catching it all. But I just think, I have a belief that it won't erode as fast if you can put the concrete in there. And I know in my research, the elevation was 4,355 feet high and currently it's 4,345. So it's filled up 10 feet. I had heard that it was 18 feet because I know that you guys had races and motorcycle guys going underneath that bridge all the time, but now you can't even crawl through there. And I did take the picture and highlighted this is a sewer line. And I said that the residents are concerned with that breaking and having all that washed down. And then he asked me if there's any power lines in that. I don't know. Do you guys know?" Councilmember FitzSimons "No there is not." Mayor Rowe "There's some, there are communication cables on this other bridge, and I don't know about that one down there. I don't think there is." Commissioner Reese "I've seen the sewer line, but that's all I've seen." Councilmember FitzSimons "I'll be in touch with you if I hear anything on that end. Yes. And then, like, we appreciate you, like I said, getting as many eyeballs on this as

possible."

c. **Lincoln County Power District**
Dane Bradfield

Minutes:
No Report.

5. **Items for DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION of the Caliente City Council**

a. **For Dicussion and/or Approve/Deny Lincoln County High School request to hold annual homecoming bonfire on Thursday October 8, 2026 at 8:00pm at Caliente Industrial Park**
William Pike / Michael Collins

Minutes:
William Pike "I'm William Pike, the current student body president, and yeah, we'd like to ask for approval to hold it there." Councilmember FitzSimons "I know the high school principal is here, Mrs. Dirks. For those that don't know, in the community, the high school does this every year. We do put out a warning to the sheriff's department to, you know, if you get a lot of calls at night of a fire being out that way. I know we've worked with the city before with Jared and Justin to kind of pile that up. And then it'll be on our agenda for the volunteer fire department next Wednesday. Next Wednesday's meeting, we'll have a couple of trucks out there, I hope. I guess we'll talk about that right there. Okay. So as far as our end, yeah, we're good on that." Council discusses the supervision and transportation of students. Councilmember George Rowe moves for approval for Lincoln County Highschool request to hold annual homecoming bonfire on Thursday October 8, 2026 at 8:00pm at Caliente Industrial Park. Councilmember FitzSimons seconds the motion. All in favor, motion carries.

Vote results:
Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

b. **For Dicussion and/or Approve/Deny Lincoln Community Coalition permission to hold the annual Gingerbread Fun Run on November 7, 2026 in conjunction with the Holidays to Remember event**
Kimberly Andrus

Minutes:
Kimberly Andrus "My name is Kimberly Andrus. I'm the executive director for Lincoln Community Coalition. First, I wanted to say thank you to the city for your support in the past to help us do our events. We're looking forward to doing the Gingerbread Fun Run on November 7th, and we would like your permission to host that event here in Caliente, as we have in the past. Any questions?" Councilmember Comella moves for approval for the Lincoln Community Coalition permission to hold the annual Gingerbread Fun Run on November 7, 2026 in conjunction with the Holidays to Remember event and discloses her employment with the coalition. Councilmember FitzSimons seconds the motion. All in favor, motion carries.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

c. **For Dicussion and/or Approve/Deny Lincoln Community Coalition is asking for donation of $105.00 for its annual Gingerbread Fun Run Event to be held on November 7, 2026.**
Kimberly Andrus

Minutes:
Councilmember George Rowe "I got a question. Why an odd amount?" Kimberly Andrus "So our costs went up from last year. We asked for $100 last year, which you did, and we're doing 105 this year because the cost for the shirts and the sponsorships have gone up for us. And so that's why we went up to 105, but we thought it sounded much better than 125." Councilmember George Rowe moves for approval for Lincoln Community Coalition is asking for donation of $105.00 for its annual Gingerbread Fun Run Event to be held on November 7, 2026. Councilmember Comella seconds the motion and discloses working for coalition. All in favor, motion carries.

Vote results:
Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

d. **For Discussion and/or Approve/Deny Caliente Community and Visitor policies: Financial, Reservations, Library Materials, Sale of City Merchandise, Volunteer Policy**
Diedre Mower

Minutes:
Diedre Mower "You all got the copy of the policies this time, right? Good. Yes. We're good to go. There were a couple of items, you know, on the first page it says items in red and marked with an asterisk will need to be specifically discussed and decided by the City Council per the recommendation of the City Attorney before being finalized. So the first one of those is on the first page in the financial practices and accountability. At the end of that section, you'll see the asterisk at the bottom. Delegation of spending authority to the financial action team and to the committee president is effective only upon express ratification by the city council until ratified expenditures above the amount stated in this section require prior city council authorization. The only thing that our financial policy authorizes us to spend is the money that the city has already put into our account. Even in a case of urgent need where it talks about the formation of a financial action team consisting of the treasurer and one other committee member. That gives us permission to spend out of that designated fund if something comes up that we can't wait till our next regularly scheduled meeting to make that decision. But nothing gives us any authority to touch money that's not already allocated to us. and then the other specific item I wanted to point out. Okay, on page, I believe it's 14, hopefully your page numbers and mine are the same. Under volunteer records. The part that Mr. Manuele marked says, the city shall confirm and state before this policy takes effect whether volunteers are covered by the city's workers compensation, liability, and insurance programs while serving, and this section shall be updated to reflect that determination. We wrote this policy based on the current draft of the city's volunteer policy, to my knowledge, that's still just a draft,

though. I don't think you guys have finalized that, right? So we'll need you guys to let us know or maybe we just take that out and we wait for that policy to be finalized. But whether or not volunteers are covered under workman's comp and other." Councilmember Comella "I did confirm when we last year when we renewed our policy with pool pact that all people who volunteer all through the city for committees for events are all covered, you know, under our under our insurance. So, Pool Pact could probably give you an answer on that too, if you want to just send them an e-mail, but that was my understanding when I questioned them here last year." Diedre Mower "Okay, yeah, I can double check with them. Those were the only notes. I think from our city attorney, did anybody have any questions or anything?" Councilmember Comella "Well, no, just a kudos to you. You know, I've been to all of but one of the meetings and just incredibly impressed with how dedicated you are to this and how many hours you put into it and how organized you are. And I just want you to know, I'm very grateful for everything that you've done. I know how hard you work. And so with that, I would move for approval." Councilmember FitzSimons seconds the motion. Councilmember FitzSimons "So I think this is very well written. It's really good. I went through it because I had a couple of weeks time to go through it. I really like the part about one authorized CCVC staff member or authorized facility operator must remain physically present at all times. I think that protects us as a city as far as coverage gaps. I really like that part. Right. And I do like the part about the spending authority where, like you kind of mentioned it, but I'm going to go the reverse, like it's effective only upon express ratification by city council. So you can't even spend the money internally unless council approves it. So I really like that part of it. And then the other parts I was looking at it is we talked about staffing and with these volunteers and it kind of relates to the coverage just protecting the city. We have children's programs in there. Are we having any type of external or internal background check on any of these people that have been working with children? You know, I'm just, again, trying to protect the city." Diedre Mower "We are working on getting that in place, yes." Councilmember FitzSimons "Because that wasn't in here, like, you know what I mean? So it did talk about everything else, like, you know, it's designed and approved as a volunteer run facility. Just some of the things have popped out. Again, city council approval for everything. And then it's not like you guys are just leaving that to the wolves. I'm just concerned about any coverage gaps because if there's not an authorized person there, then we just don't want to leave the keys with anyone. So, and I know you guys are obviously have common sense, but those are the things that pop down in my notes." Diedre Mower "After the hours and hours we put into getting that space ready, we're not leaving it unattended for anybody to mess with it." All in favor, motion carries.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

e. For Dicussion and/or Approve/Deny Master Plan Chapter 8

Planning Commission

Minutes:

City Clerk Frank "Miss Hooper from the Planning Commission was not available

to be present tonight, but you guys had chapter 8 for the last month. So they're just asking for approval of chapter 8." Councilmember George Rowe "Chairman of the Planning Commission is here. Would he like to say something in regards to Chapter 8?" Lynn Jackson "Honestly, it's been a couple of months since I looked at Chapter 8, but I do know we went through it thoroughly and are making these recommendations based on where we see the city is at this time. We've successfully been able to complete the review of all of the chapters, and so you should be getting those shortly to go over." Councilmember FitzSimons moves for approval for Master Plan Chapter 8. Councilmember George Rowe Seconds the motion. All in favor, motion carries.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

f. For Dicussion submitting Master Plan Chapter 9 for review

Minutes:

City Clerk Frank "Linda said she would have chapter 9 available for me when she gets back and I will get it out to the council for approval and we'll put it on the beginning of November's agenda for approval." No vote, discussion.

g. For Dicussion and/or Approve/Deny paying grant match funds with Lincoln County paid to Nevada Department of Transportation for the bike path to Kershaw-Ryan in the amount of $20,979.75

Stephanie Cory

Minutes:

City Clerk Frank "All right, I was contacted by Denice Brown with Lincoln County, and she said that there was a grant that was done in 2018, 2019 for the Kershaw Ryan bike path from the end of Clover Street out to Kershaw Ryan. They had budgeted for several years, kind of fell off the books. We agreed to match grant funds with them. So I'm bringing it before the council for approval before I issue a check." Councilmember George Rowe "We did do agree to this. And I'd make a motion that we make a payment of $20,900.75" Councilmember FitzSimons seconds the motion. Councilmember FitzSimons "And discussion real quick. Mayor, is this is this it on the final match grant? Is this the final payment, Stephanie?" City Clerk Frank "Yeah, that's why the invoice was included in the in the support." Councilmember FitzSimons "Okay, well then maybe we'll get with NDOT to see who maintains this path, if it's city, if it's NDOT, if it's a joint thing. I know we've taken our boys down there and chopped some of the weeds. But I mean, I understand it was a match grant. It was years ago when we did it. And it was, it's been a great use for the tourists and city folk to Kershaw, but yeah, maybe we can get some assistance with NDOT too as far as maintaining. But just an observation statement." All in favor, motion carries.

Vote results:

Ayes: 4 / Nays: 0 / Abstains: 0

h. For Dicussion and/or Approve/Deny hiring part-time Customer Service Representative for the CCVC with a salary that was approved in the FY27 budget not to exceed $13574.00 annually

Minutes:

City Clerk Frank "All right. I figured we'd get this agenda item on. It's been brought to my attention that the council has not approved this part-time customer service position and the salary. It was approved on page 15 of the FY27 budget, and the amount of 13,574 what they have brought to us and the salary amount is under that for the budget and what they're proposing for the part-time position to be. So I would like to get council approval for that before we hire that position." Councilmember FitzSimons "And this is in a position that's full-time, right? There's no benefits, no." Councilmember Comella "And my understanding, Diedre, is that you've already interviewed for that position and you've just made it, you're going to make a recommendation at your next meeting for the person that you want to hire. I mean that the committee hiring committee chose. Okay." Councilmember FitzSimons "So I emailed Stephanie and Shain on this. They were gracious enough to get back to me because I too went through all those budget meetings and just wanted to decipher because I couldn't find it anywhere and I'm glad that they showed me where it was. But when I looked at it, it was, you know, it didn't identify the CCVC position. It didn't identify 19 hours a week, didn't identify customer service, didn't identify any of the staffing at all. And then I saw the 13,574. And my biggest thing was just, I thought this, you know, thing was built on volunteerism, right? Like this was going to be all volunteers. We told the city, we told the county library district that when they wanted to hire someone, we told them, no, we have volunteers that will do it, right? And then now, again, Dan McArthur said that it's grown from volunteers to a paid position. And so that was my concerns, and I appreciate Shain. He emailed me back, and I just didn't want us to be in a situation of, you know, NRS 354-626 where, I mean, where we're having to augment the budget because I want to just be transparent, right? If we didn't budget for this item, then why are we doing it? So I appreciate them getting back with me. But then, and then my thing just comes down to, we hire somebody, what happens when that person, and it wasn't really in your plan, when that person can't make work? I mean, illnesses happen. Someone falls down and hurts themselves, they can't go to work. So now we're paying this person for a job that they're not at. And then also, I don't want, I'd hate to have someone working in there, and then they can't make work, and then the city staff ladies have to like go and cover. You know, I just didn't want it to be a burdensome on them. And maybe you guys have those contingency plans with you, but again, I just wanted to bring this out for discussion." Councilmember Comella "You know, when I made this presentation to do this project about a year ago, I know we talked about it was going to be mostly volunteer funded, but I did mention to everyone that there was a good possibility that eventually this was going to grow into, you know, a paid position or a position to help out. But Diedre, can you tell us a little bit about what your plan is for that position? I'd be interested to know how you envision using this person." Diedre Mower "Yeah, so the plan was to have this person cover two regular shifts a week. So we'll pick two days that work for them and that work for us and they'll just cover those shifts. That doesn't quite use up all of their hours for the week, and so it will kind of be up to them to decide. Some of those hours will cover our

monthly committee meetings, or they can come in and work, you know, if we have a volunteer that cancels and isn't able to cover. This is not someone that we are relying on to keep the center open on their own. At max, they can do, I think with the hours, they can do 2 1/2 shifts. We currently run 6 shifts a week. So we're not even asking them to take half of the load off the volunteers. And honestly, ideally, I would love it if they could work the same shift as I do so that I can work on more administrative stuff and they work on more library stuff so that, because I can't keep up with the admin side and reshelving the library books as they come in And so that would help just redistribute some of the load. They would be recruiting and coordinating volunteer schedules. They would be operating the reservation schedule for reservations of the room. They would help maintain and organize and work within our library collection. I should have brought the job description with me and I don't have it right in front of me. And then, you know, they'll just be there to help. We currently are doing pretty good filling all the shifts that need to be filled. Each month we've been open, we've had one to two shifts a month where we just can't get a volunteer that's available that day and we've just had to be closed. And we have, I think, one day on the calendar so far for October that we're in the same boat. We just, none of our volunteers are available due to everybody has busy lives. And so we had even one person that was just rock solid and stable then that would really help us out a lot. I mean, our volunteers are great and they're solid and they're here when they can, but I feel like a person with a paycheck has even more motivation to be there." Councilmember Comella "And would they be flexible to cover those shifts?" Diedre Mower "Yeah, that's where those extra hours could come in that they wouldn't have specifically scheduled. They could help cover shifts that we can't get volunteers for. You brought up what happens if they get sick and they can't make it to work. We would have our volunteers fill the shifts as they have been for the last three months. We'll just keep trying to find that balance to keep the doors open as much as we can." Councilmember Comella "So you said in your report here you have about 12 regular volunteers?" Diedre Mower "Every shift Monday through Friday, we have a regular volunteer. For example, I'm there every Tuesday, Betsy's there every Wednesday, as much as we can. Life happens, there's sometimes we can't make it. Saturdays we do not have a regular volunteer for, and so we have just kind of extra volunteers that can help pick up those days. Some of our volunteers are just substitutes for when our regulars can't come. They don't work regularly scheduled shifts, but they can pop in and pick up hours as needed. And so we're doing okay with the 12 that we've got. But like I said, we still have a day or two every month that we can't quite cover." Councilmember Comella "Okay, well, thanks for the update. You know, the report is really impressive. You know, 657 volunteer hours, 62 membership holders, you know, 7000 books, over 7000 books in the collection. You know, it's been,71 computer users, over 1000 visitors in just 88 days. And if we had the ability to be open more, I'm sure those numbers would, you know, would be considerably more. So yeah, it's just been, you know, it's so far it's been a great thing and it just, you know, the feedback I get from the community is, and from visitors is tremendous. They're so grateful for the Wi-Fi, they're grateful for the computers. They're grateful for the books, you know, it just, you know, for

having access to everything. So it's just been a, you know, hugely successful project so far and I'm really happy and thank you for your contribution. So, with that, I would make a motion to approve." Councilmember FitzSimons seconds the motion. Councilmember George Rowe "When they decided on closing the depot for restoration several years ago and closing the county library. We received a large amount of money from the county to cover our library, a full-time librarian and when we got the depot open, I fought to get that back again. But the council turned me down. They said that they wanted to run their own damn library. And they said they would do it with all these people here. They said they would do it with volunteers and now you want to hire somebody. Did anybody go to the county commission and ask for any of that library money? I brought that to your attention. At least twice to the council and was told that somebody would go and do it. The city of Caliente is the largest tax payer in the county. And each of your pay. A portion of that goes to the county library. The biggest portion of the library fund for the county comes from the city of Caliente, and we received nothing. Because nobody's put in the effort and going to get it. You said you was going to do it all with volunteers. I would make a suggestion that if you're not going to go to the county and ask for a little bit of money on the library fund, that you put this off until the next budget session and then ask for that money and then you'll have the money to work the library and the community visitor center, as you call it." Councilmember FitzSimons "Shain, can you elaborate on the budget? We kind of talked about in my e-mail that you said the budget item was there. I just elaborate on that." Mr. Manuele Unable to transcribe. Mr. Manuele explains that the amount is budgeted for FY27. The money is allocated to the CCVC. Councilmember George Rowe "I hear you've lost your main librarian. Is this correct?" Mayor Rowe "This is a discussion for council only." Councilmember George Rowe "If there's money available for the Library Fund. through the county which the city of Caliente pays more money into it than any other entity in this county then we should get a little money from the county." Commissioner Reese explains. Unable to transcribe. Mayor Rowe brings council back to order Councilmember FitzSimons "Mayor, can I get, can I get one more thing in? This form, this Diedre that you brought, this was great and I would advise, you know, let's get things moving along here. If we could, if you could bring this data back, you know, we approve this position when we do, bring this data back so we can look at the results moving forward to the fiscal year 28 budget. You know, meaning that if we get the raw data saying, okay, this is what we, you know, I seconded the motion. So it's like, we passed this now, but I want the data on the numbers to say, okay, this is what that volunteer did. This is how many, just similar to what you did, but it'll obviously be for the fiscal year. And then that way we can make a discussion or we can I'd like to see this maybe a year-to-year decision. I hate to like put an anvil around your neck on that, but let's see the data and then we'll say, hey, moving forward, can we budget for it again as we're meeting on the next fiscal year budget?" Councilmember Comella agrees. All in favor, motion carries.

Vote results:

Ayes: 3 / Nays: 1 / Abstains: 0

6. Appointed/Contracted Personnel Reporting

a. City Clerk's Report

City Clerk Frank

Minutes:

City Clerk Frank "Good evening, council. I hope everybody's having a good evening. I feel like it's been forever. I would like to address that specifically. I would like to apologize for not getting the agenda posted in a timely manner for our last meeting. I was in the middle of a PERS audit. And it was brought to my attention later on Monday that it was not posted. So I will do that in a timely manner. I have lots of reminders set now. So first and foremost, we were able to identify some utility billing errors this month for the month of September, there were probably about 30 accounts that were affected by some high water usage reads. Those have all been identified. They have been corrected and the customers have been called. And those customers have been notified and the bills are back on express bill pay. If they need a copy of the bill at City Hall, we can get it to them. I was brought to my attention on September 28th. The bills went out that day and the corrections were made within 48 hours. I apologize for that. It was nothing that was anything that could have been could have been handled any differently. I contacted all the customers. It was brought to our attention by a customer. So moving on to grants, we're super busy in the grant world. We have the wall that's been prepared for our art mural that's going up in November. The USDA drainage grant, I had a meeting with USDA earlier last week, and we got all the paperwork in order to start the grant. And our Phillips Plumbing is scheduled to begin the work in mid-October. That's when their schedule opens. Me and Joseph have been working with the Department of Emergency Management on, I think, four different IT grants. I'm waiting for funding on one of them before I move forward with it just to make sure that we're going to get the funding. Because they say we're going to get it, but I just don't want to move forward with some other grants that we have for this fiscal year until I know we're going to get paid for them. Hannah, our deputy city clerk, attended a grant conference in Las Vegas at the beginning of September. So we're starting to get our feet dipped into the grant world. It's a big, huge, vast world. So that was great. I did receive an IRS letter that I did send. It's the kind of the same one I think Brenda had received previously, so I resent that to Dan McArthur and I'm waiting for direction. The PERS audit findings will be submitted with October's, and I'm working on creating a Department of Tax account for the sales tax on the City of County merchandise that we have generated. That's going to be some fun stuff that comes, some magnets and cups and things like that. So that'll be exciting. And I'm working on a couple of Freedom of Information Act requests that we've gotten in the last month. So, if the council has any questions, I'll take questions now. Councilmember FitzSimons "Thank you for doing that. Maybe Hannah can come up with her 20-minute spiel on how she did at the grant conference next time. And yeah, Stephanie, thank you. And if you hear around town that it was only, you know, I was one of the customers affected by it, where my water bill was like $20,000. So it wasn't just citizens as I hear that, oh, nothing happens to city hall people. So, and Stephanie was on that and very diligent about getting that back. So, I appreciate that." Mayor Rowe "It was a deal that, if it ended in a zero on the

reading it made it come out weird. I don't know what it did, but funny computer stuff." City Clerk Frank "And thanks, Ozzie. I just want to say thank you because your wife pointed it out, so if I would have not known, so thank you very much."

b. Public Works Manager's Report
Public Works Manager Brackenbury

Minutes:
Mr. Brackenbury "Thanks, Mr. Rowe. Yeah, you have my written report, so I'll keep it brief. But all wells are up and running at this time, which is nice. We put the pump building back over on well 6. Got it protected again. Me and Mark had two days of training on the new water reading software that I think was part of the issue that Stephanie and these guys ran into. Got a few bugs to work out, but...I talked to Tim Wolf today about water rights. We've got 3 permits I think we need to file extensions for in October. So he's going to come down and meet with me at least probably on a weekend. He's pretty busy now, so I don't know what we want to do there. But on the sewer side of things, we had two fairly decent sized blockages, I guess. One on Mini and Atta Street and then one on Rowan. We had a high sewer, like high solid test at the sewer plant in September. So we stopped our effluent pumping to build the ponds back up and then we tested it again at the end of September and it was good. Adrian from Wave Services passed away. One of Betsy's friends. I got to meet him a couple different times. Well, a couple, three or four times. Really nice guy. It was good to get to meet him. So we got a role to fill there at some point. Trash and stuff has been fairly normal. Got one garbage truck down with some compactor issues. We've been trying to troubleshoot it. Might have to get a little help in the next couple weeks. Now the burn piles pushed up for the bonfire. We'll do it again probably next week. Just clean up around it. Justin Keith got his CDL. He's done, certified, so you might want to stay off the roads for a few weeks. But on streets, we painted all the both crosswalks by this crosswalk by the school and the crosswalk by the businesses, painted all the parking spots. Been playing a few roads when it rains and we got some moisture and we started mowing brush last just this week, I guess. We did kind of around Kiva by the cemetery and stuff and then come around this side of town by next week. Parks spend the same. The grass is still growing. The weeds are still growing. So we're just doing what we can there. No major power outages. Did meter readings. These guys are, they tell me, 99.7% done with the mural wall over here, so getting really close. We had two workforce guys, their last day was today, Caleb and Gordon, and I hired two more, Dallin and Traylin, and they started last week. That's it for me. Questions." Councilmember FitzSimons "I wish I had a question for you, sir, but I think what makes him and his guys so good is every time you want to think about a question to ask him, it's covered here in the report. Everything they've been painting, everything they've been blading, everything they've been, I mean, they're out at the transfer station this afternoon cleaning up trash, and so I appreciate Justin and all his crew." Mayor Rowe "Thank them too. They cleaned all, if you noticed, they cleaned all the weeds and stuff that was growing in the outside of this fence along the railroad track. It was becoming an eyesore from the other side

over there. They come in and cleaned that all up took them about what an hour or so to do it was all. But anyway, they got that all done. I have a question for you though. When we pulled all that steel out of the well over here and that was that heavy stuff. What ever happened to that? Where did that go? Mr. Brackenbury "We cut it up and it's in the behind the shop." Mayor Rowe "I was just wondering if we could use some of that at our range out here, that heavy stuff." Discussion between Mayor Rowe and Mr. Brackenbury about the steel and belting to go in the range. Councilmember Comella "No, just kudos to Justin and Mark for the work that they did on the wall in the lobby here getting ready for the mural. Mural is going to go in late October, early November, and the guys have been working over the last few weeks to repair that wall and repair a lot of trim. I mean, they even manufactured the circular trim over the door one of the doors there in the in the lobby, so because it was damaged pulling it out of the it was countersunk, I guess the screws were countersunk or something. So, yeah, they really went to great lengths to make it look nice and high school shop. So that was great. And yeah, it looks really pretty and I think it's going to be great for when Heidi gets here in about a month to do the mural."

c. Building Inspector's Report & Lincoln County Regional Transportation Committee (LC RTC) Update

Jamin Hunter

Minutes:

No report. City Clerk Frank "He did kind of provide me with an update just to let everybody know. The hospital should have 90% plans submitted to him this week. And there's a new permit coming in tomorrow, and then the rest of them are just kind of flowing. There was an RTC meeting that was recently. It was kind of just a business as usual RTC meeting. The next one coming up is October 12th at 3.30. They're going to discuss something to do with Alamo is what he believed. Yeah, he and other than that, he didn't have anything else to report." Councilmember FitzSimons "Yeah, I would, I hate to speak for the council here. Maybe I'm not, but I'd like to get like a report from our building inspector, like an e-mail. I agree. Something I know he's unexpectedly helping someone tonight, but even if that happened a couple hours before council, why can't he e-mail us? I get his, you know, Justin emails me the day of. I'd like to kind of see some of this on paper and so I don't know if that comes from the mayor or Stephanie. You know, like I said, we're paying the guy and I think that he should be here and at least talk about his report and take questions from us." Councilmember Comella agrees.

d. Discussion of Legal Issues

City Attorney Manuele

Minutes:

Mr. Manuele "No legal issues."

7. Discussion of Council Members Responsibilities

a. Tourism / Boxcar Museum / Community & Visitor Center

Councilmember Betsy Comella

Minutes:

Councilmember Comella "I did ask the mayor for a minute to do a tribute to my friend Adrian, who passed away last Thursday, one week after being diagnosed with leukemia. He worked for the city for 18 months, helping the city get completely caught up. He was a master in his craft. He was, you know, he had spent over 30 years in wastewater treatment operations in the Las Vegas Valley. And when he retired, he took on the city as a client. And over the next 18 months, he worked tirelessly to catch us up on all of our reporting to train, to work with our staff, especially Mark Olson, to go through our plant and to make a bunch of repairs. He was just essential to this group, and he will be sorely missed. I know by me and he and his wife are very dear friends of mine and he's going to be missed by city staff as well. So, I just wanted to take a moment of silence to show our support for his family." Moment of Silence.

Councilmember Comella "Okay, I managed to get through that. Okay. Thanks, everybody. As far as tourism goes, about a week and a half ago, LCAT held an event a week ago on Saturday night next door, and it was just a huge success. We had about, I would say, between 60 and 70 people who showed up for the event that they put on. They brought in six authors from Nevada, and then they also had art for sale, and they had a cash bar and some food and some lemonade. And I was just amazed at the number of people that showed up, which kind of just shows me that there was an appetite in this you know, in this area for that kind of thing. So, I think we'll be expanding on that next year. This was the first time they've done it, and it exceeded my expectations entirely. The next big thing that LCAT has coming up is on October 9th, so not this weekend, but the following weekend. They're going to be putting on their annual photo festival, and this time it's going to be held in Panaca. And it's always a great event, the well-attended. So, I'm looking forward to getting a report on that. Unfortunately, I'm going to be out of town, but I wish them the best with that. The Boxcar Museum, nothing new. They have their monthly meeting next Tuesday and they just are rock stars. That's just business as usual. They're constantly giving tours around here. People, the comments that I get back from the people I run into are just, they're very impressed with the museum and with the customer service that they get from the volunteers. Let's see, the city merchandise that we, the mayor and Stephanie and I worked on has started to trickle in, so check that out in the office. We've got several more orders to come in. Hopefully they'll be in in the next couple of weeks. So there'll be some new things in the office for people to purchase. And then community and visitor center. I think we've talked about that enough tonight. So, I'm going to leave that one alone. And with that, my report is done. Any questions?" Mayor Rowe "Community and visitor center is what this is called. I think they're in the process now of changing the name." Councilmember Comella "I know that I've discussed it with Diedre about changing the name to the Library and Visitor Center, and it's going to be up for committee discussion at their next meeting on the 13th."

b. Community Development / Planning Commission

Councilmember George T. "Tommy" Rowe

Minutes:

Councilmember George Rowe "Yes, I attended several weeks ago the last Planning Commission meeting. And we handled chapter 8 and Chapter 9 was discussed as Chairman Jackson stated earlier. I would just like to say it while I've got the floor. We're celebrating 250 years of the United States being a Republic, fifty years ago, but the for the bicentennial in July of seventy-five. I raised my hand and took the oath as a councilman. On the city of Caliente. And I served 16 years at that time, nine of them as mayor. And while I was mayor, I come into that city hall everyday. We had a full police force at that time and I spent a lot of time in the Chief of Police's office. Since then I was the county commissioner for 12 years, all that the law would allow. Since then, I was elected mayor in the 20s. I served mayor for a little over a year. And then I'm on my second term as councilman again. I get out and meet with the people. I don't hang around City Hall. The mayor is at City Hall. He is in charge of the mayor, the City Hall, and he's in charge of the crew there. Any of the council that don't think I spend enough time in City Hall? I'd just like to say that. I have paid my dues." City Clerk Frank "I'm just going to touch on the planning commission real quick. I know that me and Linda Hooper, and I forgot to include this in my clerk report, Linda Hooper and I and Alice Roderick, we have got the codification back and so we've been working diligently for the past two weeks to get through those edits. We have some questions for Shain and the building inspector to get through that. The due date for our draft to go back to American Legal Publishing is the beginning of November. So we should hit that date. But we're working diligently. So I want to say thank you for you guys. I know that Linda Hooper has worked on the planning side of the edits and we've worked, you know, two, three, 4 hours in the last couple weeks looking through those codifications. So that's exciting coming up. And the next Planning Commission meeting will be October 14th, 5 o'clock, right here in City and Council Chambers."

c. Parks / Beautification Committee / Tree Board

Councilmember Joseph Livreri

Minutes:

Mayor Rowe "Mr. Livreri and he's not here. Do they have anything on any one of those deals? I know the beautification committee is kind of in the middle of disbanding. City Clerk Frank "I have not heard anything at City Hall yet." No report.

d. Public Utilities

Councilmember Sean FitzSimons

Minutes:

Councilmember FitzSimons "Thank you, Mayor. Not much other than yes, we didn't lose anybody getting their utility bills and having heart attacks of these 20,000, 140,000, but then that's good. That was the only utility hiccup we've had. Justin covered it mostly in his report. So nothing major on the public utilities sector. I do want to congratulate the three candidates running for city council, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Bradshaw, Mr. Jackson, for being here. They've been very vigilant and going door to door and knocking on my door late at night at 830 when I'm trying to sleep. And then I will say that I'm headed to Reno on

Sunday, as is Councilman Comella, to the League of Cities, the annual conference that we're having up in Reno. And so I'll be there for a couple days representing, obviously, Kelly Annie, but also I'm on the executive board for League of Cities, so we're looking forward to maybe talking to some folks at that level, like Mr. Reese said about the flood impacts and stuff, and looking forward to some of these panel things, such scorching topics like where do we sit on data centers, and urban land institutes and urban plan workshops. So as Councilman Rowe has advocated in the past, League of Cities is something that we can we collaborate with other cities, other councilmen, other mayors in this in the state of Nevada. So, we'll be heading to that. So I just thought I'd thank the city for sending me and thank you Stephanie for making the arrangements."

e. **Mayor's Report & City Hall / Depot**
Mayor Steve Rowe

Minutes:
Mayor Rowe "I don't have much more to say. I've got what I need to say, I think, anybody have any questions for me?"

8. **Public Comment**

Minutes:
Mike Reese "Mr. Reese. For the record, Mike Reese speaks on behalf of myself. So yesterday there was a court ruling in the 9th Circuit Court. I don't know if you guys are aware of the Baker Ranch, that it followed suit against the national government or national parks, the government. That's been ongoing for quite a while. Verdict came in yesterday. It was a split decision on it in favor of Baker Ranch. And the crux of it was Baker Ranch has been there for God knows how long. And when the park went in, the Lehman Creek that was coming in there started getting diverted, backed up, and it cut down his water supply coming in, making his business basically try to fail because he can't have any water. So he sued the national government, and my knowledge is the first one, he's won. So if he had lost, it would affect all of us across the state because it would have said that the government can come in and take out, take away part of your water rights in lieu of a government facility such as a national park and stuff. I do have the news article, if anybody would like a copy of it, let me know and I'll send it to you. Okay, thank you."

9. **Schedule date and review agenda topics for the next meeting**

Minutes:
Next Meeting is October 15th in Council Chambers at 6pm. Business License application so far.

10. **Adjournment**

Minutes:
Meeting Adjourned at 7:13pm.

X Steve Rowe 10-15-26

Steve Rowe, Mayor Date

X Stephanie Frank 10-15-2026

Stephanie Frank, city clerk Date