



# STOREY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

FEBRUARY 19, 2021 2:00 P.M.

DISTRICT COURTROOM  
26 SOUTH B STREET, VIRGINIA CITY, NEVADA

## **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

JAY CARMONA  
CHAIRMAN

ANNE LANGER  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CLAY MITCHELL  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

LANCE GILMAN  
COMMISSIONER

VANESSA STEPHENS  
CLERK-TREASURER

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**Roll Call:** Chairman Carmona, Vice-Chairman Mitchell, County Manager Austin Osborne, Deputy District Attorney Keith Loomis, Clerk & Treasurer Vanessa Stephens

Absent: Commissioner Gilman

### **1. CALL TO ORDER MEETING AT 10:00 A.M.**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Carmona at 10:00 A.M.

### **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Carmona led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **3. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION:** Approval of Agenda for February 19, 2021.

Public Comment: None

**Motion:** I, Commissioner Mitchell, move to approve today's Agenda as submitted, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Mitchell, **Seconded by:** Chairman Carmona, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, **(Summary:** Yes=2)

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT (No Action):**

None

### **5. DISCUSSION ONLY (No Action – No Public Comment): Committee/Staff Reports**

None

**6. BOARD COMMENT (No Action – No Public Comment):**

None

**7. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION:** Provide direction to county staff and lobbyists on representing Storey County regarding potential legislation related to Innovation Zones and other properly related matters.

Mr. Osborne explained that staff has remained neutral on this (item) until the Board is able to take a position. At this point, staff still recommends remaining neutral, there is no Bill out at this time. Until there is an actual Bill, staff recommends to continue watching conditions and continue this meeting to a specific date when we are prepared to bring this item to your attention.

Public Comment:

**Steve Ayers:** Goes back to the early days of TRI. He does not understand how this can even be considered. Someone trying to take our land is ridiculous. If Blockchains doesn't have the business plan to generate capital to do what they want to do, and they do not want to deal with Storey County... Blockchains can go away. He understands **inaudible** is the owner and has to be pushing a lot of this. Time to knock it off. Those 50,000 acres are our acres. That money comes to (the County's) coffers, gives us the chance to do something in the future. Maybe affordable housing or other things. The whole thing was designed to generate an economy for Storey County.

Mr. Ayers referred to Tesla and Elon Musk as being so far ahead in innovation. Blockchains can leave and go away. Google is on the edge of that property. Is Google going to come in and dictate to the County? This has to be "nixed".

Mr. Ayers said we are in the best economy than ever in Northern Nevada - because of Storey County and what the County Commission has done. Companies come in and want to dictate - and more behind them are wanting to come in and do the same thing. These companies need to do deal with Storey County the way that we are. The money needs to go into the "coffers" Storey County as agreed to.

Chairman Carmona encouraged Mr. Ayers to contact the Commissioners and/or County Manager if he has more thoughts on this matter.

**Eileen Gay, Painted Rock resident:** Although she's not excited about development here - those that are thoughtfully designed and conceived could be acceptable. All of the agencies that Blockchains says would slow down its construction, are there for good reason. Oversight makes safe, well considered development. Blockchains buying a large chunk of land in the County and, by waving a lot of money around, jump over what is in place to protect the environment, public and long-term relationships and interests in the area, is unconscionable.

Items 23-30 in the draft bill are really scary. How is it in Storey County's interest to allow Blockchains to remove this land from oversight and fiscal involvement? How does any of the Innovation Zone concept help Storey County?

Ms. Gay said she appreciates Mr. Osborne and the County keeping an eye on this Bill and informing residents of Painted Rock so they can have an active voice in this issue.

Vice Chairman Mitchell assured Ms. Gay that her comments, and the previous ones, are being heard, are appreciated and being taken to heart.

Mr. Osborne: Reminder, any correspondence anyone would like submitted, forward to his office or to Vanessa Stephens' office - we will make sure it goes to the Commissioners.

Mr. Osborne requested to continue the item to Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, at 3 PM.

Chairman Carmona said he has been contacted by residents. He advised that they keep an eye on the agendas. Once something is actually submitted to the Legislature - then we will know what we're dealing with.

Vice Chairman Mitchell: The fact that this has been agendized and is being continually left on the agenda, we are not taking a position on either side - in support or opposition. We want to make sure we have all of the information - and as there has not been a bill introduced - I personally feel it is premature to take a position even though there is a fair amount **inaudible**, we want to make sure we are dealing with what's actually introduced before we take that position.

Chairman Carmona: Agreed.

**Motion:** I, Commissioner Mitchell, move to continue this item to a meeting to be held on Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM,

Deputy District Attorney Loomis advised that it is the meeting being continued.

**Motion:** I, Commissioner Mitchell, move to continue this meeting to be held on Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Mitchell, **Seconded by:** Chairman Carmona, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, **(Summary:** Yes=2)

## **8. PUBLIC COMMENT (No Action)**

None

Respectfully submitted,

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vanessa Stephens Clerk-Treasurer

