

SENATE  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting - April 1, 1977

Present: Vice Chairman Foote  
Senator Faiss  
Senator Gojack  
Senator Hilbrecht  
Senator Raggio  
Senator Schofield

Vice Chairman Foote opened the twenty-ninth meeting of the Government Affairs Committee at 1:30 p.m. Due to a previous commitment Chairman Gibson was unable to be in attendance.

AB-17

Changes composition of metropolitan police commission. (BDR 22-485)

Richard Bunker, City of Las Vegas, testified on this bill noting that they have met with the Clark County people and have reached an accommodation. Mr. Bunker had the following amendment suggestions for the committee:

Page 1, line 14 change the two members to three members. (Original concept of the bill was two members from the city, two members from the county and the sheriff was acting as the fifth member (non voting except in the case of a tie). The county has suggested that they would like to go to a three and one set up. On page 2, line 47, in order to stay consistent with our population figures we would like to change the 60,000 to 47,500. This would also be reflected on line 1 of page 3. On line 23, of page 4 - amendment that was suggested in the assembly that was accepted by both the city and county, however, upon reading it we feel that there might be some problem with other local entities in the valley who have a desire to contract for police services. We therefore suggest that on line 23, of page 4 after the words "formation of the department", delete the remainder of the sentence, insert the following, "the participating entities shall not contract for police service" (this is with McCarrin Airport for police service and they also serve with the federal government for prisoners.) This change would make the metropolitan police department the contracting agent. They then would replace the county in contracting the McCarrin Airport people and the federal people with police services. On Page 7, bracket out lines 40 through 46. This section which addresses the health and medical care of prisoners, committed to the custody of the sheriff will be covered by AB-288. This was just passed out of the Judiciary committee. Therefore, this portion being bracketed out would be covered by the language in AB-288.

Thalia Dondero, Chairman of Clark County Board of Commissioners concurred with Mr. Bunker's testimony and stated that they were in agreement with the amendment suggestions.

Bart Jacka, Assistant Sheriff, Metro police in Clark County, also concurred with Mr. Bunker's testimony and amendment suggestions.

Vice Chairman Foote asked that the committee hold action on this bill until Chairman Gibson could be present.

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SB-390

Allows governing body of certain cities to prescribe amount of bond required of city treasurer. (BDR 21-1349)

Bob Warren, Nevada League of Cities, gave some background history on this law and felt that this bill only makes the law more compatible. The cities and counties agree with this bill.

Mr. Leroy Getchell, City of Fallon, stated that the law as it stands now does not give the city the flexibility that the county enjoys.

Motion of "Do Pass" by Senator Raggio, seconded by Senator Gojack, motion carried unanimously.

SB-395

Changes requirement for publishing ordinances of certain cities. (BDR 21-1350)

Bob Warren, Nevada League of Cities, stated that this bill would put Fallon, Ely, Winnemucca and Lovelock on the same requirements for publishing ordinances as the other cities. They would publish by title only. This will amount to a small savings for the smaller communities. The ordinance changes will be available at the offices for anyone who is interested in reading the change.

Joe Jackson, secretary and member of the Nevada State Press Association, read his testimony to the committee. (See Attachment #1) Mr. Jackson was against this bill. Concluded his testimony by stating that this was a protection to the public. Publishing by title alone will not give the interested citizen enough information to know what this ordinance change is all about.

Senator Gojack asked Mr. Jackson if they were still publishing the ordinance changes in full and Mr. Jackson responded by stating that some cities were and some were not. There was no uniformity about it.

Carol Pringle, Lovelock, was against the bill. She felt that there was no way to tell from the title what the changes would do. Also going all the way into town to read an ordinance change was difficult for many farmers who lived out of town. The newspapers gave the information needed and the people would then know if they should come into town to protest the change before it became law.

Mr. C.P. McCuskey, Lahonton Valley News, Fallon, Nevada, also testified against this bill. He publishes the ordinances in full and feels that there is a need to have these printed for the public to be fully aware of the changes that will be occurring.

Senator Raggio disagreed, felt that the publishing by title should be enough. These four cities are the only ones that still have to publish the entire ordinance and since the other communities have been functioning well under the publishing by title system these communities shouldn't have to keep to the old law.

Senator Gojack was given a copy of the Lahonton Valley News by Mr. Warren to illustrate the space consumed with these ordinances. Senator Gojack noted that in reading this newspaper she felt that there was not enough information in the title to give the interested citizen knowledge of what was happening and the full intent of the change.

Mr. Warren responded to this comment by stating that since Senator Gojack was used to the type of language that is used in these ordinances she could understand the intent that a layman might have difficulty understanding. Mr. Warren felt that most people wouldn't understand the ordinance changes but the title would let them know if it was something that they should be interested in. He also felt that some of the ordinance changes that would affect a community would be carried as news items in the papers anyway.

Mrs. Pringle didn't like the deadline aspect, didn't give enough time to respond to the ordinance change before it would become law.

Gene Pringle, Lovelock Review - Miner, testified against this bill. Mr. Pringle felt that some of the people in their area, living as far as 100 miles from town, wouldn't be able to get to the office in time to protest a change.

Sam Burgess, owner of High Standard, an Ely paper, stated that they don't publish the entire ordinance unless they feel it is of public interest.

There was no action taken on this bill today.

SB-397

Deletes requirement of annual financial statement for certain cities.  
(BDR 21-1348)

Bob Warren, Nevada League of Cities, stated that this bill amends present statutes that refer to city audits. Deletes the requirement of an annual statement and makes an annual audit be filed by November 1st. We feel that an annual audit report will fully meet the requirements of the state and local entities.

Mr. Warren informed the committee that he had planned to have someone from the local advisory board be present to give further testimony . . . . Senator Gojack would like to have something from the advisory board regarding their feelings on the bill. Mr. Warren indicated that he would bring it to the next meeting.

Mr. Getchel, Fallon, stated that Mr. Jim Lien, Tax Department, felt that this was merely a technical change.

Motion of "Do Pass" by Senator Raggio, seconded by Senator Faiss.  
Motion carried unanimously.

AB-434

Requires investigation of economies of using sodium lamps for exterior illumination of state buildings, grounds and highways. (BDR 27-1034)

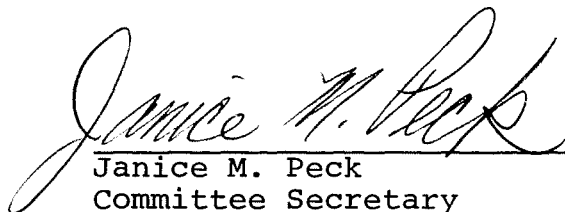
Mr. Russell "Bud" Hill, State Traffic Department of the Nevada Highway Department, testified to the committee on this bill.

Mr. Hill read his prepared testimony to the committee. (See Attachment #2). Mr. Hill concluded by stating that they would be very happy to make this study. He noted that they have also been asked to make this type of study by the Governor. He felt that we really didn't need to have this bill. They would do the study with or without the necessary legislation.

No action was taken at this time.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Janice M. Peck  
Committee Secretary

Approved:

  
Vice Chairman

POSITION STATEMENT of the Nevada State Press Association regarding Senate Bill requiring publication of ordinances by title only in certain cities. Presented to Senate Committee on Government Affairs.

Senate Bill 395 affects publication of city ordinances in four Nevada Communities, Fallon, Ely, Lovelock and Winnemucca. Permission to publish the ordinances by title only was granted to the charter cities when charter changes were effected during the 1971 legislative session. The Nevada League of Cities is requesting that the same privilege be extended to the non-charter cities.

City officials who are supporting this bill claim primarily that the publication of these ordinances is costly. We submit that the cost is not excessive, certainly not prohibitive, in view of the opportunity to let the public know what the city council plans to do for, or to, them.

As an example, here's a quotation from a letter to Sen. Carl Dodge from Bob Sanford, publisher of the Mason Valley News in Yerington:

"I feel very strongly about these ordinances being published in full and the cost to cities in the smaller counties is not prohibitive. Right now, our council is embroiled in controversy with the pilots over the airport ordinance and the biggest objection has been ~~to~~ alleged attempts by the dads to enact an ordinance by title and without full disclosure to the public. Of course, anyone can demand to see the ordinance but that could well be after it is already enacted into law. Rather than eliminate publication, I would think it more sense to publish the ordinance in full before its adoption. Any changes made at a public hearing could then be done through amendment not requiring publication."

There's a strong hint in Mr. Sanford's letter that there's more than the costs of publication involved in support of this type of legislation - maybe some public officials have something to hide. We do not in any way mean to imply that this is the case in the matter to which Mr. Sanford's letter refers, but we do submit that by failing to publish all the details, the opportunity to hide something is certainly afforded.

The Nevada League of Cities says it merely asks that the cities like ~~the~~ Fallon, Winnemucca, Lovelock and Ely be given the same privilege extended to the other cities by the Legislature in 1971. We would suggest' on the contrary, that this Legislature make no changes whatever with regard to the four cities involved, requiring them to continue to publish their ordinances in full. We would suggest, further, that during the 1979 session, changes be made in the charters of all the other cities requiring them to return to publication of their ordinances in full.

After all, each one of us has to live under these ordinances. Each one of us has a right to know about changes proposed which will affect our way of life. We have a right to know what the changes are before the ordinances are enacted. Only by publishing these ordinances in full in newspapers can full disclosure be assured.

Public officials who support Senate Bill 395 claim they're only trying to save money. Why? To spend it somewhere else? \*After all, it is the taxpayer's money which is being spent, and this money should be spent to let the taxpayer know what his government is doing, or plans to do. It is his right to read about it in his newspaper, not to have to trek down to the courthouse and read about it on the courthouse wall. The public, through its representatives in these legislative halls, should resist attempts like this to encroach on public rights.

One Nevadan, Telford Work who edits the legal publication The Los Angeles Dail Journal but who owns some 7,000 acres of land, with improvements, in Lander County between Austin and Battle Mountain, writes:

"It is a matter of some astonishment to me that Nevada legislators should desire to cut down on public disclosure at a time when legislators everywhere, and particularly at the federal level, are voting more and more to "let the people know." In these days, public information is more and more the name of the game.

We do not believe the members of this Nevada Legislature are going against the trend of the times and are trying to reduce public disclosure. The hard work of both Senate and Assembly committees in hammering out legislation intended to strengthen Nevada's open meeting law, legislation which would have a chance of acceptance by both houses, stands as proof of their intention that Nevada shall stand at the forefront of all the states in conducting the public's business openly at each and every level of government.

But in the legislative process, when certain constituencies request certain bills, it is no more than fair that they be introduced. So it is, we believe, with the introduction by Senator Dodge of Senate Bills 395 and 397. Other bills, relating to publication of county ordinances, and of city and county claims may be in the offing. We submit such measures are entitled to a fair hearing. We hope you'll give our protest full consideration and indefinitely postpone action on all such measures, because as we have said, how can the average citizen plan his life-style if he doesn't know about changes in municipal procedures which affect that life-style.

Respectfully submitted

Joe Jackson  
secretary-manager  
Nevada State Press Association

- \* The City of Fallon paid the <sup>two</sup> Fallon Standard <sup>NEWSPAPERS 1200 TOTAL</sup> ~~\$934.33~~ <sup>FISCAL '75</sup> in legal fees in 1976. <sup>SINCE JULY 1, 1976 TO DATE PAID 1800</sup>
- \* In Winnemucca in 1976 the total cost of publishing city ordinance in full amounted to \$530.42. This included a lengthy dog control ordinance. On the other hand Winnemucca paid out \$40,000 in architect fees in connection with a bond issue which failed to pass.

LOVELOCK PAID REVIEW-MINER 636.85 - IN 1976

but REVAMPED ORDINANCES

FRIDAY APRIL 1ST, 1977 1:30P.M. (RM. 243)

NAME: RUSSELL "BUD" HILL

TITLE: CHIEF TRAFFIC ENGINEER, NEVADA STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

WE PRESENTLY USE MOSTLY MERCURY VAPOR LIGHTS ( A BLUSH LIGHT) WITH A 30' MOUNTING HEIGHT.

AB-434 DISCUSSES THE USE OF SODIUM VAPOR LIGHTING TO CONSERVE ENERGY.

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF SODIUM VAPOR LIGHTING.

LOW PRESSURE WITH A YELLOW LIGHT

HIGH PRESSURE WITH A PINK LIGHT (LUCALUX)

USE OF SODIUM VAPOR LIGHTING WOULD CREATE A SMALL SAVINGS IN ENERGY, BUT TO CONVERT OUR EXISTING LIGHTING SYSTEMS FROM MERCURY VAPOR TO SODIUM VAPOR WOULD REQUIRE HIGHER POLES AT A COST OF APPROXIMATELY \$1000 PER NEW POLE.

A NEW POWER RATE WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE CREATED BY THE POWER COMPANIES THROUGH THE PSC TO ESTABLISH MONTHLY BILLING COSTS.

WE ARE PRESENTLY USING SOME HIGH PRESSURE (PINK) SODIUM VAPOR INSTALLATIONS IN THE LAS VEGAS AREA AND THE CITY OF RENO HAS SOME IN USE ON SOUTH VIRGINIA STREET.

LOW PRESSURE SODIUM IS FELT BY SOME TO BE JUST TOO YELLOW TO THE POINT WHERE IT IS UNDESIREABLE. THE CITY OF RENO, ACCORDING TO THEIR NEW TRAFFIC ENGINEER ROSS AINSWORTH, IS PLANNING TO INSTALL 6 LOW PRESSURE SODIUM VAPOR LIGHTS AT LAKESIDE - MOANA INTERSECTION WHEN IT IS SIGNALIZED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE POWER COMPANY WILL METER THESE LIGHTS SEPARATELY AND WE WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN COMPARATIVE ENERGY CONSUMPTION AMOUNTS AS REQUESTED BY AB-434.

*The Highway Dept. has no objection to this bill. We feel, however, that the bill is not necessary and that a letter from the committee to us requesting a study be made, would accomplish the same results.*

SENATE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

GUEST REGISTER

DATE 5-1-77

PLEASE SIGN - EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT HERE TO TESTIFY.....

NAME	WILL YOU TESTIFY	BILL NO	REPRESENTING - - - - -
Russell "Bud" Hill	Yes	AB-434	State Highway Dept.
K.W. Bunker	YES	AB-17	CITY OF LAS VEGAS
BOB T. JACOB	YES	AB-17	LVHMPD.
DORCE STAUDING	NO		CITY OF LAS VEGAS
CP Mc Caskey	?	SB 395	Lahontan Valley News-Talk
Sam Dreyfus	?	SB 395	Fallon Eagle - Std
Kathy Search	NO	AB 17	
Myra E Search	NO	AB-17	CITY OF L.V.
Tom Moore	NO	AB-17	Clark County
Gene + Carol Pringle	?	SB 395	Lovelock Review - Mirror
Joe Jackson	yes	SB 395- <sup>397</sup>	NOV. STATE PRESS ASSN
Thalia Donders	YES	AB 17	Clark County Commission
Bob Broadbent		AB-17	" " "
Roy Woolter	Yes	AB-17	LV City COMM
Leroy Sitchell	yes	SB. 390-395, 397	City of Fallon
Steven Striker	NO		CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS
James Loffe	NO		Fallon Nevada



AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Date 4-4-77 Time 2 PM Room 243

Bills or Resolutions to be considered	Subject	Counsel requested*
SB-242	Enacts State Employee-Management Relations Act. (BDR 23-44)	
SB-346	Expands subjects of bargaining between local Government employers and employees and limits prohibition against strikes to certain employees. (BDR 23-1072)	
FOR COMMITTEE ACTION		
SB-310	Provides for optional bases of accounting for certain local governments. (BDR 31-1024)	
SB-193	Provides for assessments for improving certain streets. (BDR 20-737)	