

**MCCONNELL LAW OFFICE**

950 Idaho Street  
Elko, Nevada 89801

**Katie Howe McConnell, Esq.**  
khmccconnell@frontiernet.net

Telephone: (775) 738-1951  
Facsimile: (775) 738-1953

September 9, 2019

Reece Keener  
Mayor, City of Elko  
1751 College Ave.  
Elko, NV 89801

VIA EMAIL

RE: ELKO CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 9/10/19  
Agenda Item: Golf Professional Services at Ruby View Golf Course

Mayor Keener:

My office represents Brad Martin and Martin Creek Holdings, LLC. Mr. Martin is currently the golf professional and concessionaire at Ruby View Golf Course (RVGC) under an agreement with the City of Elko.

I am writing this letter as I am unable to attend the City Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, 2019, as I will be in Ely for work and I want my position and opinion to be included in the record for this item.

Brad Martin has been the golf professional at RVGC for nearly 10 years. Currently, Mr. Martin is under contract with the City through December 31, 2019, with an option to extend the Contract for an additional 2 years through December 31, 2021. Mr. Martin has fully intended on extending the Contract and continuing to provide Golf Professional and concessionaire services to RVGC and the City of Elko.

In May, 2019, Mr. Martin received an email from Elko City Manager Curtis Calder regarding the agreements at RVGC. The last sentence of the email states "Since the agreement expires on December 31, 2019, both parties should evaluate the status of the relationship. As always, I'm happy to meet with you to discuss." May through September are the busiest months at RVGC, and Mr. Martin has continued to operate the golf course at the highest level since the May email with no further communication from Mr. Calder.

September 9, 2019

Page 2

On Thursday, September 5, 2019, after the City Council agenda for September 10, 2019 had been posted and publically delivered, Mr. Calder sent Brad Martin an email, also attached, letting Mr. Martin know that it was Mr. Calder's recommendation that the City allow the current golf professional contract expire and send out a Request for Proposals for Golf Professional Services at RVGC. Interestingly enough, the agenda item does not include any discussion about the termination or extension of Mr. Martin's current contract, which has the option for an extension built in. The extension, however, must be agreed upon between Mr. Martin and City Council, not the City Manager.

Mr. Calder's rationale for the recommendation to terminate was that Mr. Martin did not respond to the email on May 10, 2019 (quoted above) and that Mr. Martin did not close the gate at night for security purposes. Following the May 10, 2019 email, Mr. Calder did not have ANY further communication with Mr. Martin nor did Mr. Calder attempt to discuss Mr. Martin's contract before placing this agenda item regarding an RFP on the agenda. Instead, he placed the agenda item to put Mr. Martin's job out for bid without any input or correspondence with Mr. Martin until after the fact.

At this point in time, City Council is faced with an agenda item that does not address Mr. Martin nor his contract. Mr. Martin could have the hundreds of golfers who support him show up at the meeting only to be turned away because the agenda item is simply for an RFP.

The job of golf professional and concessionaire is a difficult job that is not easily filled due to the unique setting in the City of Elko, and the fact that the applicant must be a PGA Professional. For the past 10 years, Mr. Martin has dedicated his time and effort into making RVGC a course that residents and visitors enjoy playing. Mr. Martin and Rick Longhurst are the only PGA professionals in the City of Elko. Mr. Martin has a City of Elko Business License and supports this City. Now, he is essentially being pushed out without an opportunity to even discuss his contract and any problems that have allegedly occurred at RVGC with City Council.

To authorize an RFP at this point would be to literally put the cart in front of the horse. Instead, it is our position and desire that City Council decline to take action on the agenda item as stated, or decline to authorize the RFP and instead put an item on the next agenda to discuss the extension of Mr. Martin's contract for the 2 year extension option and allow Mr. Martin to discuss his work at the golf course and allow City Staff to discuss any problems that they may have.

September 9, 2019

Page 3

Only the City Council can agree to an authorize the extension of the contract, so why doesn't the Council decide on that first rather than going straight to an RFP? If the City authorizes the RFP without even hearing from Mr. Martin or exploring the idea of exercising the option to extend the Contract, it would be an unnecessary waste of City funds, and detrimental not only to Mr. Martin, but to the entire RVGC and golf community.

I appreciate your time in reviewing this proposal and opinion.

Sincerely,



KATIE HOWE MCCONNELL

cc: City Council, via email  
City Clerk  
City Manager