



The Navajo Nation Council - Office of the Speaker

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Appropriation bills make slow headway in Council

Delegates meticulous about spending measures

"It was shenanigans after shenanigans today." — Council Delegate Hope MacDonald-Lone Tree.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Day three of the 21st Navajo Nation Council's summer session continued Wednesday with most of the legislations dealing with appropriations.

Several pieces of legislations contained clerical errors causing them to be ruled out of order, including Legislation No. 0068-08 that was sponsored by Omer Begay Jr. (Cornfields/Greasewood Springs/Klagetoh/Wide Ruins). This legislation related to community development to amend the Navajo Nation's 2008 fiscal year budget by approving a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$6.6 million to the Navajo Nation chapters in equal distribution of \$60,000 per chapter for capital improvement projects.

"It was shenanigans after shenanigans today," said Council Delegate Hope MacDonald-Lone Tree (Coalmine Canyon/Toh Nanees Dizi). Some of the legislations that had clerical errors are likely to be recalled before the session is finished, she said.

Legislation No. 0131-08 failed by a vote of 47-31, it needed a two-thirds vote to pass. This legislation was sponsored by Hope MacDonald-Lone Tree, Raymond Joe (Tachee/Blue Gap/Whippoorwill) and Rex Lee Jim. It was an action relating to public safety to amend the Navajo Nation's 2008 fiscal year budget by approving a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$546,888 to the Division of Public Safety, Department Fire and Rescue Services for recurring expenses for supplies.

The Council approved a couple items to be added to the agenda. Legislation 0422-08 was an act overriding the president's veto on Navajo Nation Council Resolution CAP-11-08. The bill received near unanimous support by 68 in favor and only two opposing. This legislation was sponsored by Council Delegate Hoskie Kee.

Legislation No. 0413-08 passed by a vote of 72-2 and was considered an emergency legislation to amend the Navajo

Nation's 2008 fiscal year budget to re-appropriate funds from the Grant Reserve Fund in the amount of \$280,000 to the Division of Public Safety's Department of Law Enforcement. In addition, the legislation requested an appropriation of \$58,592 to the Division of Public Safety's Department of Fire and Rescue services. This legislation was sponsored by Nelson Begaye (Lukachukai/Tsaile/Wheatfields).

Legislation No. 0132-08 was ruled out of order by the Council for clerical reasons. The bill was an action related to public safety to amend the Navajo Nation's 2008 fiscal year budget to approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$158,196 to the Division of Public Safety's Fire and Rescue Services for recurring travel and special transaction expenses. This legislation was sponsored by Hope MacDonald-Lone Tree, Benjamin Curley (Kinlichee/Ganado) and Rex Lee Jim (Rock Point).

In the last piece of legislation for the day, the Council approved Legislation No. 0141-08 with an amendment to appropriate \$180,000 to the Office of the Speaker to be distributed to all the fairs that will be occurring across the Navajo Nation. The appropriation equals about \$20,000 for each fair.

Legislation No. 0141-08 passed by 61-10 with several amendments, this item was related to health and community development to appropriate \$101,396 as a grant to Hoosh Dooch Dii To' Development Inc. for recurring personnel expenses. The legislation was sponsored by Tom LaPahe (Tachee/Blue Gap/Whippoorwill) and Raymond Joe .

"We talk about the youth and the elderly all the time," Kenneth Maryboy said. "We need to enhance the everyday lives for our youth and elderly; people look forward to these events, the song and dance and stuff like that. It makes things a little better for the public and the people. Let's help them out a bit."

The Summer Session of the 21st Navajo Nation Council will reconvene Thursday, July 24. For an updated agenda log onto www.navajonationcouncil.org.