

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF EL MIRAGE  
EL MIRAGE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
14010 N. EL MIRAGE ROAD  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2012**

**Minutes**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lana Mook at 6:00 p.m. The Council led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Lana Mook, Vice Mayor David Shapera, Councilor Roy Delgado, Councilor Jim McPhetres, Councilor Jack Palladino, Councilor Joe Ramirez, Councilor Lynn Selby.

**III. PRESENTATION**

Presentation of updates concerning the Community Garden project and introduction of garden benefactors. (Administration)

Pat Gregan presented a status report of the Community Garden Project/Farmer's Market and introduced the supporters of the Garden; BNSF Railroad, Pioneer Landscaping, G & G Enterprises, Master Block & Pavers, Swan Hill Nurseries, Sun Rise Tree Farm, Councilor & Mrs. Palladino, Lowe's Home Improvement, Sutter Masonry, Free Notes Harmony, FCI, Jim Farley (Coco's Towing) and the El Mirage Fire Department; plus City Staff: Jose Macias, Dave Grace, Mary Dickson and Pat Gregan.

Monica Dorsey of the WV Neighborhood Coalition has been a supporter of the garden project. The garden has improved the image of the City. She thanked Pat Gregan for all she has done to get this project off the ground.

**IV. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Citizens desiring to speak on a matter that IS NOT on this agenda may do so at this time. Comments shall be limited to three (3) minutes per person and shall be addressed to the City Council as a whole. At the conclusion of the Call to the Public, individual City Council Members may (1) respond to criticism made by those who have spoken (2) direct staff to review a matter, and (3) direct that a matter be put on a future agenda.

Mary Koestner expressed her concerns regarding the Northern Parkway project and the funding of the project. She discussed the increase in the water bills for her homeowners association; she is having the system checked for leaks.

## V. CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed under the Consent Agenda will be voted on with one motion. If discussion is desired regarding any Consent Agenda Item, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately.

1. Consideration and action requesting that the Mayor and City Council approve entering into a solar power purchase agreement with Solar Capital Finance, LLC for a grid-tied photovoltaic system to be located at the El Mirage Fire Station, 13601 N. El Mirage Road. (DCS – Engineering)

Councilor McPhetres made a motion to approve consent item 1 as presented; seconded by Vice Mayor Shapera. Motion Carries, unanimously.

## VI. REGULAR AGENDA

- A. Public Hearing – Establishing the Thunderbird Road Overlay District. (Development & Community Services)

Mayor Mook opened the Public Hearing at 6:25.

City Planner Mark Smith and Kevin Roberts of Dibble Engineering presented a brief overview of the Ordinance.

Councilor McPhetres stated that he thought it is a fantastic concept, just the shot of adrenaline the city needs.

Councilor Ramirez stated that he thought is a fantastic concept.

Councilor Palladino expressed his support of the overlay.

Monica Dorsey expressed her support of the overlay.

Mayor Mook stated that she thought a great idea and will help to define El Mirage.

Rusty Mitchell pledged his support and will work with the City and Luke.

Mayor Mook closed the Public Hearing at 6:50.

- B. Consideration and action to approve Ordinance 12-09-06, to add Section 154.081 to the City Code, establishing the Thunderbird Road Overlay District from 127<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Grand Avenue. (Development & Community Services)

Councilor Delgado made a motion to approve Ordinance 12-09-06, to add Section 154.081 to the City Code, establishing the Thunderbird Road Overlay District from 127<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Grand Avenue as presented; seconded by Vice Mayor Shapera. Motion Carries, unanimously.

## **VII. CITY MANAGER SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS**

The City Council may not discuss or act upon any matter in the City Manager's summary unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

Dr. Isom asked the Mayor to explain the new decal supporting LAFB and the plans to place the decal on all of the City of El Mirage vehicles. Rusty Mitchell expressed his appreciation for the decal and the support the City now gives to LAFB.

City Manager Isom reported the Police Department , on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. through 2 p.m., the El Mirage Police Department will simultaneously conduct two events that the public is invited and encouraged to attend: Drug Take Back program the drop off stations will be set up on the south parking lot of the police station to receive unused or expired medications as part of the National Drug Take Back program: and a Shred-a-Thon in the police department west parking lot will be the site for The Shred-it Company who has donated an on-site shredding truck capable of shredding 2000 lbs. of paper, for free. Donations of \$5 per box, however, will be accepted in support of Special Olympics of Arizona. Local businesses such as Little Caesars and Dunkin Donuts are donating food for the volunteers from Dysart High School Key Club, Special Olympics athletes and Girl Scouts #2370. T-shirts and other merchandise will be for sale to support Special Olympics of Arizona.

Dr. Isom was pleased to report that with the onset of cooler fall weather our monthly special events calendar will resume. Numerous events are being planned and the first event on the Special Events Calendar will be the Hispanic Heritage Celebration on Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 8 PM. The celebration includes bands, food, dance performances, face painting, and a car show. The public is cordially invited to celebrate the City's Hispanic Heritage and support the first community special event of the new season.

City Manager Isom introduced and welcomed the City's new Intergovernmental and Public Relations Manager, Amber Wakeman. Ms. Wakeman thanked the City for the opportunity to work with City of El Mirage and the City's professional staff.

Dr. Isom asked Fire Chief Munding to say a few words regarding the new fire station. Chief Munding thanked the Council and citizens of El Mirage for the new building.

## **VIII. MAYOR'S COMMENTS and COUNCIL SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS**

The Mayor and City Council may not discuss or act upon any matter in the summary unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

Councilor Selby reminded everyone that September 28<sup>th</sup> is the first fourth Friday event.

Vice Mayor Shapera attended the grand opening of Bob's RC Hobby on Dysart Road.

Mayor Mook reported that tonight she is starting to respond to comments being heard regarding the City and the actions of Council. In regards to staffing levels and

spending: currently the staffing level in the administration is 6 ½ employees versus 9 employees in FY 09/10; and the carpeting that has been replaced was 5 years old, stained and a low quality, the wood floor has a longer useful life. Today, there is a significant fewer homes for sale. There have been approximately 46 jobs added and/or retained to employment base of the City. The City can thank Councilor Delgado for bringing the Valero station to the City; he made the contact with Valero years ago. The City Newsletter was started by the previous Council and retained by this Council as an avenue to report the improvements/projects being accomplished because in spite of the City issuing press release, many of the positive happenings in the City are not reported in the news. If a resident wishes to have an item published in the newsletter, they are able to contact the publisher and pay the advertisement fee but election/political notices are not allowed.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

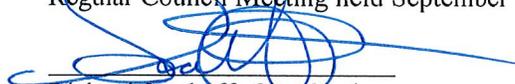
Mayor Mook adjourned the meeting 7:08 p.m.

  
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Lana Mook, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Richard Saathoff, City Clerk

I hereby certify the foregoing minutes are a true and accurate record of the City of El Mirage Regular Council Meeting held September 18, 2012 and a quorum was present.

  
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Richard Saathoff, City Clerk