

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF EL MIRAGE
EL MIRAGE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
14010 N. EL MIRAGE ROAD
6:00 P.M. TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2014**

Minutes

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lana Mook at 6:00 pm.
Pledge of Allegiance
Moment of Silence

III. PROCLAMATION

P1 Proclamation to support PowerTalk 21[®] Day, April 21, 2014 (Mayor)

Mayor Mook proposed the City proclaim April 21, 2014 as PowerTalk21[®] Day on April 21, 2014. PowerTalk 21[®] is a national day for parents and families to start the conversation with kids about alcohol and the dangers of underage drinking. By having intentional conversations, parents are able to set expectations and consequences; all while continuing to talk about the dangers of alcohol and underage drinking.

Mayor Mook then stated "NOW, THEREFORE, the City of El Mirage proclaims April 21, 2014 to be PowerTalk 21[®] Day."

P2 Proclamation in support of the "Start by Believing" public awareness campaign (Mayor)

Mayor Mook proposed the City proclaim to support the "Start by Believing" public awareness campaign. The "Start by Believing" public awareness campaign is designed to improve the responses of friends, family members, and community professionals so they can help victims of sexual violence to access supportive resources and engage the criminal justice system.

Mayor Mook then stated "NOW, THEREFORE, the City of El Mirage, in concert with the El Mirage Police Department, proclaims to support the "Start by Believing" public awareness campaign and encourages all citizens to support the efforts of organizations that provide education, outreach, and support to victims of sexual violence and call upon citizens to dedicate themselves to ending all forms of violence."

IV. PRESENTATION

- P3 Presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to Art Mendivil for his selection as the 2013 El Mirage Citizen of the Year by the Surprise Regional Chamber, in recognition of his long-standing service to El Mirage and its residents of all ages. (Administration)

Grants Administrator Pat Gregan advised Council of the background for the award received by Mr. Mendivil and summarized his history with El Mirage. He is a life-long resident of El Mirage and a 1st generation American. In his youth, he worked the fields alongside family members as a migrant farm worker in Arizona and California, harvesting onions, cotton, and lettuce. He graduated from Dysart High School and Glendale Community College, landing a job with the phone company upon graduation. He then attended Arizona State University, while working full time, to realize a life-long dream of becoming a teacher. Four days after retiring from the phone company with 28 years of service, Art entered a classroom as a certified teacher, having received a bachelor's degree from ASU and completing a master's degree at Northern Arizona University. Currently, Art teaches English Language Development at Dysart Elementary School and continues to enrich the lives of children and his community as a whole.

He also coached t-ball, directed a Folklorico dance troupe, and served as choir director at Santa Teresita Church for the last 18 years. He has dedicated many hours to the City as a past member of the Planning and Zoning commission and is a current member of the Judicial Selection Advisory and Review Board. Art and his wife raised four children in El Mirage in a home he designed and built. The City is very proud to recognize and honor Mr. Mendivil as the El Mirage Citizen of the Year Awardee.

Mr. Mendivil thanked Mayor Mook, Council and the Surprise Regional Chamber for this honor. He also mentioned that his students at Dysart Elementary School saw his picture and story in the El Mirage newsletter and consider him "famous." He expressed his appreciation and humble gratitude for the honor and the awards.

V. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Resident Dan Reilly thanked the Council for considering renaming the community park in Cactus Park subdivision known as "Serenity Park" to "Veteran's Park." The Cactus Park Board of Directors approved the name change at their most recent Board Meeting.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consideration and action approving the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held Tuesday, March 18, 2014. (City Clerk)
2. Consideration and action to rename the City-owned park known as "Serenity Park" to "Veterans Park" located at 12400 North 128th Drive (Public Works).

Vice Mayor Ramirez moved to approve Consent Agenda items as presented; seconded by Councilor Palladino. Motion carried unanimously (7/0).

VII. REGULAR AGENDA

- A. Consideration and action to approve IGA Amendment No. 121-48-2012-05 between the City and RPTA/Valley Metro supporting a one-year renewal of the IGA and resumption of the direct transfer of future LTAF II (ALF) funds to the City for transit-related projects. (Administration)

Grants Administrator Pat Gregan gave a presentation on background of the IGA between the City of El Mirage and RPTA/Valley Metro. Each fiscal year, the City is asked to renew its IGA with Valley Metro to continue Valley Metro's administration of Dial-A-Ride on the City's behalf. In addition to the one-year renewal term, the City has added language to the IGA that directs Valley Metro to disburse to the City its future LTAF allocations, changing the current contract direction for Valley Metro to hold the City's funds to pay for Dial-A-Ride each year. By directly receiving LTAF allocations, the City would continue to fund Dial-A-Ride (which Valley Metro would bill the City for actual use), and use the remaining allocation to be used for other transit-related projects such as vehicles, bus shelters, operating costs, etc.

Vice Mayor Ramirez moved to approve IGA Amendment No 121-48-2012-05 between the City and RPTA/Valley Metro as presented; seconded by Councilor Delgado. Motion carried unanimously (7/0).

- B. Presentation of the FY 2014-15 budget framework. (Finance)

Finance Director Robert Nilles presented the budget framework and proposed fee changes stating the budget philosophy and process of balancing the budget is simple, but not easy. Revenues need to equal expenses; if expenses exceed revenues, then either revenues need to be increased and/or expenses need to be cut. Making decisions that most meet the needs of the community is the responsibility of policy makers and making those decisions can be difficult. He described three key questions policy makers need to ask when considering the budget: 1) are the services provided by the City done in the most efficient, cost-effective manner, 2) what is the customer (resident or business partner) willing to pay for those City services, and 3) is the costs for those services competitive with comparable cities/towns so the City continues to attract growth, or at a minimum, not deter growth.

Thus far in the FY 14-15 budget process, individual department budget requests have been submitted, departments have met with and reviewed respective requests with the City Manager, and revenue projections have been firmed up. The City Manager stated this year's budget is stable and with major projects being completed, the business community is beginning to take note. This year's budget will focus on "Working together to promote a more successful El Mirage."

The next steps include presenting Council with a Tentative Draft Budget by April 14th, followed by a Council workshop to review the draft with departments at a workshop April 21st and 22nd, 2014. The Tentative Budget is scheduled for Council review on May 20th, a Public Hearing for Property Taxes and adoption of the Final Budget is scheduled for June 3rd, and the Property Tax adoption is scheduled for June 17, 2014.

Dr. Isom recognized Finance Staff Robert Nilles and Christie Eusebio and Council on the budget process that is proving to create stability. The City has had to make tough decisions over the past few years but the budget process in place is moving the City forward.

VIII. CITY MANAGER SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

City Manager Dr. Isom reported on the 2014 Easter Eggstravaganza to be held Saturday, April 19, 2014 from 8 am – 12 Noon at the El Mirage City Plaza and Gentry Park. All were invited to welcome in Spring by attending the free family event.

He further reported that Judge Morgan informed the City of the satisfactory completion of the AOC audit and introduced Director of Court Services Rod Wettlin who provided a brief summary to Council. Mr. Wettlin gave a background of review dates and was pleased to advise that 31 audit findings had been addressed and brought into compliance during the seven months since the Judge and he arrived. One of the biggest achievements is the resolution of the Photo Enforcement backlog in which nearly 50,000 cases were addressed or corrected with final dispositions. Procedure and Court Policy Writing is ongoing and the remaining 10 AOC findings are being prioritized with a goal of being fully compliant by end of this summer. Mr. Wettlin thanked Council, the City Manager, and the Human Resources and Finance staffs for their support and patience in providing the Court with requested needs in order to bring the Court into compliance and improve the overall operation.

Dr. Isom introduced Intergov and Public Relations Manager Amber Wakeman who in turn introduced to Council the new Special Events Coordinator Jeffrey Anderson. She stated that Jeffrey comes from Hawaii where he was the Youth Activities Director for 7 years at the Marine Corp Base. He worked for a Marine Corp Community Services program as civilian support where he did all youth activities and recreation. Jeffrey has 20+ years in recreation, parks and youth services. Mr. Anderson addressed Council stating he did his undergrad in Iowa and received his Master's in Public Administration from San Jose State. He is excited and proud to be a member of the El Mirage staff and also pleased to see the new YMCA coming to El Mirage. He has worked with the YMCA in the past and looks forward to partnering with them here.

Dr. Isom reported he is proud of the quality of staff with many coming to the City with Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. He and Council welcomed Jeffrey to El Mirage.

IX. MAYOR'S COMMENTS and COUNCIL SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Councilor McPhetres thanked Art Mendivil for his contributions to the City of El Mirage, commended resident Dan Reilly for persevering in renaming the park to Veteran's Park and thanked Mr. Wettlin for his brief Court report.

Councilor Shapera reported he attended the West Valley Little League grand opening at Gentry Park and complimented staff on the work recently done at the park stating it looked fantastic.

Councilor Delgado reported on his attendance at the recent Cesar Chavez breakfast where his friend, who is President of Estrella College, received an award. He also attended the Grand Opening of the Life Spring Church which was the church that recently received a site plan approval from Council; Councilor Delgado complimented the Pastor for his dynamic speaking and positive work with youth programs.

Vice Mayor Ramirez stated he is pleased with the completed installation of the stop light at Dysart Road and Peoria Avenue. He further expressed his kudos to Mr. Mendival and thanked him for his long-time service to the community and for making a difference.

Mayor Mook reported the new larger street name signs are currently being installed throughout the City and they look fantastic.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Mook adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.



Mayor Lana Mook

ATTEST:



Sharon Antes, City Clerk

I hereby certify the foregoing minutes are a true and accurate record of the City of El Mirage and Regular Council Meeting held April 1, 2014 and a quorum was present.



Sharon Antes, City Clerk