

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, MAY 20, 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 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance
Moment of Silence

III. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No cards submitted

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consideration and action approving the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held Tuesday, May 6, 2014. (City Clerk)
2. Consideration and action to adopt a notice of intent to add a fee for digital billboard installation requests and to add a range of fees for general merchandise (i.e., caps, pens, stickers, etc.) not sooner than 60 days from the date of posting the notice pursuant to A.R.S. §9-499.15. (Development & Community Services/Finance)
3. Consideration and action to direct the Finance Director to restore \$31,000 budget authority taken from the Public Safety Facility budget. (Finance)

Vice Mayor Ramirez moved to approve all items listed under the Consent Agenda as presented; seconded by Councilor Shapera. Motioned carried unanimously (7/0).

V. REGULAR AGENDA

- A. Consideration and action to approve Resolution R14-05-13 approving the FY 2015-2019 Capital Improvements Plan. (Finance)

Finance Director Robert Nilles' Power Point presentation explained the CIP (Capital Improvements Plan) is created for public disclosure of planned improvements. Capital needs are matched with funding availability. The CIP guides this year and future

budgets, prioritizes staff activities, improves efficiency and improves opportunities for outside funding. There are 26 projects totaling \$53.6 M total for the FY 2015-2019 CIP. Mayor Mook asked if all listed projects have been previously discussed and Mr. Nilles advised that they had been as part of the recent budget process.

Vice Mayor Ramirez moved to approve Resolution R14-05-13 approving the FY 2015-2019 Capital Improvements Plan; seconded by Councilor Shapera. Motioned carried unanimously (7/0).

- B.** Consideration and action to approve Resolution R14-05-14 adopting the tentative budget thereby setting the maximum expenditure limit for FY 2014/15. (Finance)

Finance Director Robert Nilles advised there were a few items that have changed since the budget workshop. The budget for FY 2014/15 is \$95,347,500 which has been reduced by \$37,000 from discussions at the workshop. The next steps are Adoption of the Tentative Budget at this meeting, Public Hearing to adopt the final budget and Roll Call Vote on primary and secondary property taxes (June 3, 2014), and the Adoption of the Property Tax (June 17, 2014).

Vice Mayor Ramirez moved to approve R14-05-14 adopting the tentative budget thereby setting the maximum expenditure limit for FY 2014/15; seconded by Councilor Shapera. Motion carried unanimously (7/0).

- C.** Public Hearing, closure of public hearing, followed by Council's consideration and action to recommend to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses & Control approval of an application for liquor license from Ms. Cindy Meyers for El Mirage Market at 12188 W. Thunderbird Road. (Police)

Police Chief Steve Campbell reported this is an existing business with an existing liquor license (#10076523). Chief Campbell reported he could not recommend approval because the applicant does not meet the requirements of Arizona Revised Statutes §4.202E.

No public comments were received.

Vice Mayor Ramirez moved to not recommend to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses & Control approval of an application for a liquor license for Ms. Cindy Meyers for El Mirage Market at 12188 W. Thunderbird Road.; seconded by Councilor Shapera. Motion carried unanimously (7/0).

VI. CITY MANAGER SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Explorers Program - City Manager Dr. Isom called on Police Chief Steve Campbell to explain the background and philosophy for the Police Department's Explorers program. Police Officers Chris Culp, Michael Warren, Johnny Huerta and Police Sergeant Phil Witte act as Advisors. The Explorers Program was originally a part of the Boy Scouts organization, was developed in 1972 and is a career-oriented program designed to

prepare youth between the ages of 14 and 20 for the future by assisting them with decision making skills, character building and leadership skills. Chief Campbell expressed his appreciation for the support of the City staff as well as the community and presented Police Officer Chris Culp who is proud to be a product of the Explorer program before becoming a police officer. City Attorney Bob Hall commented that his college roommate was in the FBI and in his youth went through the program. He became bi-lingual and worked in many Spanish-speaking countries. His brother's roommate also went through the program and became a Major in the Arizona Department of Public Safety. Officer Culp then presented the Mayor with a plaque of Appreciation.

Public Works Department Report - Dr. Isom introduced Public Works Superintendent of Operations Bob Senita on behalf of Deputy City Manager Larry Dobrosky who unable to attend this meeting.

Mr. Senita introduced Shane Swarhout as the new Utility Supervisor in Public Works. Mr. Swarhout reported he is glad to be in El Mirage, looks forward to the future and is thankful for the opportunity the City has given him.

Dr. Isom advised he had attended a luncheon at the Public Works Department earlier in the day and noticed a measurable difference in spirit of the Public Works employees; there was laughter and camaraderie between department and pride in their respective accomplishments demonstrated in their presentations. He asked staff to come to the Council meeting and recreate their respective presentations.

Parks-Streets – Operations Supervisor David Grace stated he is very proud of the nine employees working his department who do a lot of work in the hot sun. Public parks have renovated to include new paint, trash cans, landscaping, sidewalks and wood chips. Gateway Park's splash pad is very popular and the upkeep of the equipment is labor intensive; a new canopy was installed behind the scenes to facilitate the maintenance of the equipment. Gentry Park received a new re-sodded field and irrigation equipment - the Little League organization claims that Gentry Park is the best looking and best maintained field in the region. Mr. Grace stated the staff should receive the credit for the visible difference in the upkeep of the fields and the other work they perform.

Facilities, Fleets and Recreation – Mr. Senita reported on behalf of Operations Supervisor Nick Russo who is currently on vacation stating work has been completed at Gentry park to replace the basketball hoops and backboards, to provide new picnic tables around the concession stand, and to install a new scoreboard donated by Mountain States Pipe and Supply, and install new water fountains. A recycled counter (previously used at City Hall) was installed in the Human Resources department and a recycled security gate (previously used at the now demolished Police Station) was installed at the Employee parking lot. A new automatic door has been installed at the Senior Center and directory signs have been installed at Gateway Park, Gentry Park and the City Civic Plaza. Mr. Senita pointed out that the poles for the signs were also fabricated in-house.

Wastewater - Operations Supervisor Adam Ford reported on the completed installation of a sodium hydrochloride tank done by the City Staff instead of outside contractors; a major project needed in a short period of time. The post filtration system project is a

disinfection process needed to increase efficiency. Another project completed was the elimination of the use of effluent discharge pumps by using gravity, saving the City \$12,000 per year.

Utilities Supervisor – New Utility Supervisor Shane Swarthout stated that over the last year new service boxes that were previously repaired were installed that will increase efficiency for the future and which will allow Customer Service to be able to read meters remotely. He also reported that tool trailer, equipped with everything needed for a repair job, was implemented to save time from returning to the PW yard for needs equipment.

Regulatory Control - Environmental Compliance Coordinator Jaime McCulloch reported that she keeps the City in compliance with Federal, State and County regulations through submitting over 30 reports per year. She stated she couldn't do the reports without the assistance and cooperation of the Public Works Staff, Police Department and Finance departments. The City has had several inspections this year and passed them all. The Arizona Department of Health Services requires 40 drinking water tests per month and they have all passed inspection. There were no violations on water quality in 2013. She thanked Council and Dr. Isom for their support with water allocation and discussed the major report recently submitted. The City is a member of Westcap for which DCM Larry Dobrosky was recently named Chair and she thanked Mayor Mook, Councilor Delgado and Dr. Isom for their attendance at the recent Water 101 presentation.

Utility Billing - Customer Service Manager Oni Boston stated 199 meters have currently been installed and are completely on-line with the new equipment; the project should be entirely on-line and operational by the end of July. The first billing presented no negative issues. The new system allows her to go online and pick up immediate and actual water usage. This ability proved helpful to a resident who was able to see that her high water usage was attributed to a sprinkler system timer and another customer learned her high usage was caused by a constantly running toilet. Ms. Boston also noted that the City of El Mirage is the first city in the state of Arizona to have this premier system.

Information Technology - Director Tom Bacome reported his department has recently updated the server, switches and controls over several weekends. Tablets have been installed in Police Department patrol vehicles providing more efficiency for officers. The new phones for City facilities are expected soon and COX Metro Ethenet is being installed to bring the City up to standard.

Public Works - Administrative Assistant Stephanie Gonzales reported that the 2014 Bulk Trash Pick-Up program is in progress in cooperation with Parks and Sons to promote the program to residents. This cycle of bulk trash pick-up should be finished in June.

Dr. Isom complimented Public Works for initiating creative and cost saving solutions to many areas of the city and for improving the City through dedication and hard work.

Northwest Valley Family YMCA – Dr. Isom reported the YMCA will open on June 1st and that memberships are now being taken. He explained the summer activities and referred everyone to the website and the El Mirage News for program information.

VII. MAYOR’S COMMENTS and COUNCIL SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

(Councilor Delgado, attending by phone via the “Meeting Room” system) left the meeting at 6:30 pm)

Several Police Explorers were introduced to the Council and group photos were taken. They were invited to make comments to the Council:

Christian Van Aller’s father is a member of the El Mirage Police Department and he wants to learn all that the program can teach him and follow in his father’s footsteps.

Celeste Chairez said this is her second week on the program; her father is also a Police Officer and she enjoys learning about law enforcement.

Ashley Quintana comes from a military background and wants to learn discipline. She enjoys the program.

Xitlaly Luna enjoys program and wants to become a Probation Officer.

Emily Burgoyne joined because she wants to go into law enforcement after being an MP in the military.

Vice Mayor Ramirez stated he has always had respect for the work of all departments and stated he is constantly amazed with how our employees are improving our community.

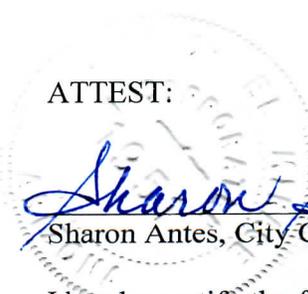
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Mook adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.



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 Regular Council Meeting held May 20, 2014 and a quorum was present.



Sharon Antes, City Clerk