

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF EL MIRAGE
EL MIRAGE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
14010 N. EL MIRAGE ROAD
6:00 PM - TUESDAY, March 17, 2015**

Minutes

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mook called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
Pledge of Allegiance
Moment of Silence
Silence Cell Phones & Pagers

III. PRESENTATION

- P1.** Presentation to El Mirage resident Isabella Buoscio for winning the Blue Cross Blue Shield Walk On! Challenge Recipe Contest. (Administration)

Intergovernmental and Public Relations Manager Amber Wakeman presented eight-year old El Mirage resident Isabella Buoscio to Council who won the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Walk On! Challenge Recipe Contest. Isabella came up with the recipe for Fruity Kale Salad while watching her mother make salads. She also loves apples, carrots, kale, bananas, grapes and blueberries. She plays soccer and feels healthy foods keep her healthy and active. Isabella thanked everyone for her recognition. Mayor Mook congratulated her and told her how proud everyone was of her.

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 or respond to the matter, and/or (3) direct that the matter be put on a future agenda.

No Comment Cards were received.

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 approving the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held Tuesday, March 3, 2015. (City Clerk)

Vice Mayor Ramirez moved to approve Consent Agenda 1 as presented; seconded by Councilor Delgado. Motion carried unanimously (7/0).

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

- A. Consideration and action to adopt a notice of intent to change certain fees which could include adding, deleting, increasing or decreasing fees not sooner than 60 days from the date of posting the notice pursuant to A.R.S. Section 9-499.15. (Finance)

Assistant Finance Director Christy Eusebio explained this is a request approval of a notice of intent to increase certain fees as required by Arizona Revised Statutes. The Notice of Intent will be posted on the City website for 60 days and will be brought back to Council for consideration and approval following the 60-day period. Fee schedules are reviewed and updated annual and the notice of intent is brought before Council to provide transparency.

Vice Mayor Ramirez moved to adopt a notice of intent to change certain fees which could include adding, deleting, increasing or decreasing fees not sooner than 60 days from the date of posting the notice pursuant to A.R.S. Section 9-499.15; seconded by Councilor Delgado. Motion carried unanimously (7/0).

- B. Consideration and action to approve Resolution R15-03-04 approving the FY 2016-2020 Capital Improvements Plan. (Finance)

Finance Director Robert Nilles explained the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) governs fully funded projects over the next five years; each Council member was provided a copy of the 2016-2020 CIP. The projects represent \$61M of needs rather than wants spread over a 5-year period to guarantee funding. The CIP prioritizes projects for staff and funding criteria include available funding, Council priorities, utility rate study, City Manager recommendations, intergovernmental agreements, grant matches and Council approval. CIP projects included in the FY 2016-2020 plan can be viewed on the City website once approved by Council.

Mayor Mook requested Dr. Isom and Mr. Nilles present an easy to understand article regarding the Capital Improvement Plan in the next City newsletter stressing that these projects are fully funded and also include an article on property taxes as well.

Vice Mayor Ramirez moved to approve Resolution R15-03-04 approving the FY 2016-2020 Capital Improvements Plan; seconded by Councilor Delgado. Motion carried unanimously (7/0).

C. Presentation of FY 2015-16 budget framework. (Finance)

Finance Director Robert Nilles presented an explanation of the overall budget process noting it is a simple process but not an easy process. Revenues need to equal expenses. The process starts with the Mayor and Council setting goals and presenting them to the City Manager. The City Manager works with City departments and employees to prepare a draft budget to meet the goals of the Council and the needs of residents. The City Manager meets with individual departments to determine department expenditure requests and Finance works to firm up projected annual revenues. Dr. Isom reported this year's budget is stable and revenues are projected to increase respectably. Major projects are completed, housing values are growing significantly and the business community is beginning to take note. Mr. Nilles then reviewed revenues and fees. The next step is to prepare and present the draft Tentative Budget on or before April 17th. The Council will then review the budget with staff at their Budget Workshop on May 4th and 5th. The Tentative Budget is scheduled for adoption on June 2nd. There is a public hearing for property taxes on June 16th with the adoption of the final budget. The property tax adoption is scheduled for July 7th.

Councilor Selby asked if there was a water payback of \$2.125M. Mr. Nilles said this debt will be repaid by the end of FY2016.

Vice Mayor Ramirez stated this was a great process and we should stay with it.

Mayor Mook asked that the coordination process involved in preparation of the annual budget be explained in a future article in the City newsletter.

Dr. Isom complemented Mr. Nilles and Ms. Eusebio regarding the work they have done over the past few years in creating a very smooth and easily understood budget process. He also recognized department heads efforts in contributing toward the compilation of the budget by keeping costs in line. Dr. Isom thanked Council for providing clear goals for the community and then letting staff attain those goals in a responsible manner.

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 reported he is pleased to announce that more solar panels with expanded parking are being installed at the YMCA.

On behalf of Coordinator Pat Gregan, Building Official Mary Dickson reported on the prestigious Garden Tour held last weekend at the City's Community Garden stating it was a great honor to be the one public garden included in the tour. She thanked Pat Gregan for turning an empty lot in a beautiful feature. Mary participated in the event reporting how exciting it was to see the hundreds of people who attended the event and hearing the many positive comments about the garden appearance and the community involvement. She also acknowledged everyone who put so much effort into the event. Mayor Mook commented on the brunch held the week prior to the tour to honor all the volunteers. Dr. Isom thanked Ms. Gregan and all members of the staff who assisted.

Dr. Isom reported the Easter Eggstravaganza will be held on Saturday, March 28th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Children ages 3 to 11 years of age will participate in this event at Gentry Park.

Dr. Isom asked City Engineer Jorge Gastelum to update the Council regarding the three major road improvement projects in progress; Northern Parkway to the south, El Mirage Road from Northern Avenue to Grand Avenue, and the Grand Avenue and Thunderbird Road intersection. Mr. Gastelum gave a PowerPoint slide presentation identifying the various construction phases and periods of construction. El Mirage Road will be divided into three sections; 1) Peoria Avenue to Cactus Road will be under construction from Summer 2015 to summer 2016, 2) Cactus Road to Grand Avenue as well as Thunderbird Road will be under construction from winter 2015 to spring 2017, and 3) Northern Avenue to Peoria Avenue will be under construction from spring 2016 to summer 2017. The Northern Parkway project will be under construction from winter 2015 to summer 2017 and the Grand Avenue/Thunderbird Road intersection (as well as the Grand Avenue frontage road improvement) will be under construction from summer 2016 to winter 2017. He then shared before/after photographs of the five homeowners who were relocated due to the expansion projects; four of the five homeowners relocated in El Mirage with one moving to Glendale to be closer to family members.

Mayor Mook complimented staff of assisting the homeowners to find new homes and Dr. Isom commended the organization for having the courage to make the City of El Mirage a better place to live.

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 Jones complimented staff on their outstanding efforts in the budget process and the progression of the road improvement projects.

Councilor Selby also complimented staff and reported on the Community Uplift Program that will take place Saturday, March 21st. Projects have been reviewed

and scheduled. He thanked Building Official Mary Dickson for her work in evaluating the applicants and for her work on this program. There are volunteers from the Dysart High School football team and faith based volunteers who will be participating in this event.

Councilor Palladino announced that CDAC awarded full funding for the El Mirage Road waterlines project stating it was primarily due to the efforts and excellent presentation by staff members Pat Gregan and Christopher Hauser.

Councilor Shapera reported on the recent Topping-Off Ceremony for the casino in Glendale. He stated the event was well attended and he believes there will be an economical uplift for the community and West Valley.

Councilor Delgado reported the library usage has dropped due to downloading information rather than taking out books. He also reported he has a garden box at the Community Garden and that he attended the recent Garden Tour. He was very pleased with the turnout for the tour and reported many people wanted to know how they could get a garden spot. Councilor Delgado also thanked staff members Pat Gregan and Christopher Hauser for their efforts regarding the CDBG award for water lines project. The CDAC recommendation goes before the Board of Supervisors next month and he does not see any problem with the City's project being fully funded. He also reported he is on the YMCA Board of Managers and they need to raise \$16,000 to support low income and military families. He stated "in support of our own YMCA" he challenged the Council to contribute \$1,000 toward this fund raiser.

Vice Mayor Ramirez stated the home replacements for the road improvement project were negatively reported to the public so he was pleased to see the end result and the positive outcome for the families. He also reported that when he was at a recent Little League game he was approached by a resident who wanted the Council to know they appreciate what a difference they have made in this community; they are very impressed with the new police department and YMCA but especially pleased with the Gentry Park renovations.

Mayor Mook commented she is frequently is contacted by residents and she refers them to Dr. Isom who, in turn, forwards to the respective departments for action. She stated she is amazed at how fast all departments respond on a wide variety of topics and the residents are thrilled with the responses.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM.



Lana Mook, Mayor

ATTESTED BY:



Sharon Antes, City Clerk

I hereby certify for aforementioned minutes are a true and accurate record of the City of El Mirage Regular Council Meeting held on March 17, 2015 and a quorum was present.



Sharon Antes, City Clerk