

**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, September 15, 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

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance
Moment of Silence
Silence Cell Phones & Pagers

III. PRESENTATION

- PI.** Presentation to Council from the Dysart Community Center's Teen Arts and Action Program (TAAP) regarding their short documentary "Voices of Local Youth." (Administration)

Dr. Isom introduced Gulavani Quinta and Sammy Rivera from the Dysart Community Center's (DCC) Teen Arts and Action Program supported by Center Director Mike Cassidy, GED Director Lord Garcioviano and Youth Education Director Priscilla Duenuez.

Mr. Quinta and Ms. Rivera introduced themselves and stated their goal was to decrease violence in their community. Programs in the community are needed for the youth to develop and become more successful. They asked specifically that a City employee be tasked with the responsibility of coordinating with the DCC and that the City designate a budget line item for such a program. A video created during the summer break at DCC was viewed regarding the students' perception of different forms of violence and prevention measures that were suggested.

Mayor Mook commended the students for their efforts in addressing the issue of violence in their homes and community and advised them of Council's progress in this area. She stated there has been concerted focus on public safety with emphasis on programs that protect youth and prevent domestic violence. She reviewed improvements made and planned to provide for a much safer community such as upgrades to both City parks, streets and lighting, free special events for the entire family sponsored by the City, and most particularly, a highly-regarded Domestic Violence Program administered through the Police Department; she paused to introduce the teens to the Director of that program,

Iva Rody, present at this meeting. She also advised the students that the current fiscal year budget had already been determined and that the next budget cycle preparation would begin in January 2016. While nothing could be promised in response to their specific request she stated the City has an excellent staff and that their request would certainly be reviewed and considered. She complimented the DCC for their creative youth activities and programs.

P2. Presentation by Architekton, to provide updates on the design progress of the new City Hall. (Development and Community Services)

Jorge Gastelum introduced Mr. Chris Kelly from Architekton to explain the design concept for the proposed City Hall.

Mr. Kelly presented Council with a PowerPoint presentation depicting the location and architect renderings of the new City Hall. The site is located on El Mirage Road just south of Gateway Park and the current Police Station with several available entrances. Solar covered parking for residents and employees was shown along with plans for landscaping and retention areas. Several different views of the two-story building's preliminary floor plans for reception, various departments and Council Chambers, as well as exterior building construction, were also shown in the presentation.

Mayor Mook asked and Mr. Kelly explained that the exterior materials depicted in the renderings were chosen to promote solar; the outside appears opaque but from the inside it is fully transparent and provides minimum solar refraction.

Councilor Delgado asked if there is an area for Council members to review material and meet the public and Mr. Kelly pointed out that area in the drawings.

Councilor Shapera asked if the roof of the building is designed for future solar and was advised that there is the possibility in a specific section but was also reminded that there is some roof top mechanical necessary that would preclude solar installation in these areas.

Vice Mayor Ramirez pointed out the green areas are recessed but with wide sidewalks and wondered if there were preventive measures so that cars would not be able to enter these areas; Mr. Kelly responded that concrete bollards are planned to be placed to prevent vehicles from driving into the plaza areas.

Councilor Palladino inquired about a security system and was told that there is a system being designed for the entire building.

Dr. Isom added that the design will also incorporate some type of deterrent to allow for exterior non-skateboard or non-bicycle friendly plaza areas. He advised Council that the next step is to work with the contractor to determine a guaranteed maximum price in moving forward with all the desired design elements.

Mayor Mook called for a break at 7:00 PM; meeting resumed at 7:10 PM.

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 to purchase one (1) new Lifepak 15 heart monitor/defibrillator from Physio Control, Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$38,000. (Fire)

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

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

- A. Consideration and action to apply for and accept DPS/VOCA funding, if granted, for FY 2015/16 Police Department Victim Assistance Unit in an amount not to exceed \$100,000. (Police Department)

Assistant Police Chief Terry McDonald stated he was presenting one final time on behalf of Police Chief Steve Campbell (since Mr. Campbell's date of retirement is September 18, 2015). Chief McDonald reviewed the grant process and reported the program audit was successful with past performance. He then introduced Victims' Assistance Coordinator Iva Rody who provided Council with supporting statistics over the past year stating the financial support for the program is comprised 29% City and 71% through State and Federal grant funds. She further stated Buckeye Police Department, Pinal County Sheriff's Department, Prescott Police Department and Prescott Valley Policed Department have all been complimentary of the program developed in El Mirage and are modeling their programs after El Mirage's exemplary program.

Mayor Mook reported that other City Mayors have complimented her on the City's Victims' Assistance Program and she has also heard from victims who have benefited. She further stated the program is helping the whole valley, other municipalities and residents who receive the services. She commended Ms. Rody and the Police Department for their good work.

Councilor Jones thanked the Police Department for doing a good job and sharing with the community.

Councilor Delgado congratulated the Police Department for what they do with the funds that are available to them.

Chief McDonald added that Ms. Rody originally came to the City as a volunteer and has developed the Victims' Assistance Program that has now received national recognition.

Vice Mayor Ramirez moved to apply for and accept DPS/VOCA funding, if granted, for FY 2015/16 Police Department Victim Assistance Unit in an amount not to exceed \$100,000; seconded by Councilor Shapera. Motion carried unanimously (7/0).

- B. Consideration and action to approve the City Manager's proposal to close general City services from Monday, December 28, 2015 through Thursday, December 31, 2015, anticipating staff will resolve any customer service issues.

Finance Director Robert Nilles reported this closure of City services was first authorized by Council in 2011 and then again in 2012. In 2014 the five-year salary scenario determined it would be eligible for consideration on years when no permanent increases are given. For 2015, Dr. Isom is proposing approval by the City Council to close most City offices from December 24, 2015 through January 1, 2016; offices are already closed Thursday and Friday, December 24th and 25th, 2015 for the Christmas holiday as well as Friday, January 1, 2016 for the New Year holiday. The budgetary impact for the City to give all employees holiday leave is \$0.00 as it does not increase employee income. Police and Fire services will continue uninterrupted and public safety personnel will receive "Special Leave" hours for this period. Management will ensure that customer service issues are covered during this period with minimal and on-call staff for the four day period December 28 – 31, 2015 to include Senior Center, Court and Public Works.

Councilor Jones stated it is wonderful this has been done in the past and the employees deserve this time off.

Councilor Shapera stated this is a good morale booster for staff.

Vice Mayor Ramirez thinks this a great program and allows employees at this time of the year to spend time with their families.

Councilor Delgado stated he is happy this program is available and thanked Dr. Isom for determining a way to make this available to employees.

Vice Mayor Ramirez moved to approve the City Manager's proposal to close general City services from Monday, December 28, 2015 through Thursday,

December 31, 2015; seconded by Councilor Palladino. Motion carried unanimously (7/0).

VII. CITY MANAGER SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

The City Council may not act upon any matter in the City Manager's summary but may have general comment or questions. Items to be discussed will include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Bond Update

Finance Director Robert Nilles introduced Mr. Greg Schwartz from Piper Jaffray to report on the recent bond purchases.

Mr. Schwartz reviewed the projects to be financed in 2015 with General Obligation Bonds and the Excise Tax Revenue Obligations. He reported the premium investor paid more than the face value of the bond and because of the City's strong rating, purchase of bond insurance was unnecessary. On Wednesday, September 23, 2015, the City will receive \$11.6M. The payment term is 15 years; the first Principal payment is due July 1, 2018 with the ability to prepay in five years. Normal prepayment without penalty is 10 years but because of the City's strong rating, the City was able to achieve the ability to prepay in five years without penalty which will save \$2,334,463. He went on to outline debt service, interest at maturity, and annual rates for the Council and compared the percentage rates for other Cities' bond issues to include Buckeye, Cottonwood and Tucson (written Council Briefing report available in the City Clerk's office).

Mayor Mook asked how long it took for the bonds to sell and was advised by Mr. Schwartz that the bonds went for public sale at 7:30 a.m. (Arizona time) and 12 different big name investors only took 1½ hours to purchase; nearly all reported that the pre-marketing helped.

Councilor Selby asked if continued conservatism would bump up future ratings and was advised that while possible, the City is "guilty" of being conservative and is also "guilty" of not selling enough. That said, the City's rating remains solid and has a very stable and positive outlook.

Councilor Delgado thanked Mr. Schwartz for everything he has done in assisting the City in obtaining these favorable bond ratings.

Councilor Jones stated he wanted to make two special points; one, he thanked the group who excellently represented the City on the recent bond rating trip to San Francisco and second, he complimented the outstanding efforts of the City's Finance Department and City Manager for an awesome job.

2. Motorola Radio Purchase

Police Chief Steve Campbell presented the new and upgraded Council-approved radios recently purchased at \$5,500 per radio pointing out the differences between the old and new including size difference as well as the technological improvements. The radios attach to the belt with speakers on both sides and each radio is programmed to an individual officer so transmitter identity is always known at any given time.

On a side note, this was Chief Campbell's final Council meeting with the City of El Mirage and he expressed his appreciation in working with the Council and Staff and wished the best for the City moving forward.

3. 2014 Salary Plan Implementation Update

Finance Director Robert Nilles reported that in 2014 the City implemented a five year pay plan that called for employees to receive a one-time lump sum payment in 2015. Additionally, the City researched possible compression issues in the 2015 plan with a goal of treating all employees equally while recognizing longevity in a position. With that goal in mind, employees were divided into four categories within a position: 1) less than six years, 2) between 6 to 11 years, 3) between 11 and 16 years, and, 4) more than 16 years. In Category 1) each employee would be paid at least at the minimum of the range; there are 78 employees in this range with 39 employees being paid at least 10% above the minimum. In Category 2) each employee would be paid at least 10% above the minimum; there are 36 employees in this range with 25 being paid at least 20% above the minimum and one employee falling outside the range and another will fall outside the range in November. In Category 3) each employee would be paid at least 20% above the minimum; there are 9 employees in this range with seven being paid at least 30% above the minimum. And In Category 4) each employee would be paid at least 30% above the minimum; there are five employees in this range and all are being paid at the maximum of their range.

Dr. Isom reported the market will be checked later this year in preparation of making salary budgetary decisions for 2016.

4. Bulk Trash Pick Up

Deputy City Manager Larry Dobrosky reported the next Bulk Trash Pick Up will take place from October 26th through November 16th. Parks & Sons is prepared to work with the City's new policies and resident flyers and advertising is prepared for educating the new procedures; promotional flyers were distributed to Council and the public.

5. Pueblo Futuro Park Update

Community Services Director/City Engineer Jorge Gastelum reported the Pueblo Futero Homeowner's Association Board approved the transfer of ownership of one park parcel to the City. One half of parcel will be transferred that does not include the drainage area of the parcel. Improvements are to be made with the Tohono O'odham grant funds.

Dr. Isom reported the Tohono O'odham grant will pay for a portion of the improvements; the City is evaluating existing equipment and will remove any unsafe equipment.

Mayor Mook asked when new equipment could be installed and Mr. Gastelum advised the City will first need to own the property and the transfer was not yet complete. She also asked if lighting could be installed prior to equipment being installed and Mr. Dobrosky stated yes from the standpoint of security.

Dr. Isom stated there are items still to be addressed regarding land transfer/ownership as well as receipt of funding from the Tribe; he will keep Council advised on the progress of this project.

6. Northern Parkway Update

Mr. Gastelum gave background that an IGA was executed in 2008 by the program participants and an Executive Committee was established. The Executive Committee voting members are MCDOT, City of Glendale, City of Peoria and City of El Mirage. Executive Committee non-voting members include ADOT, MAG, Luke AFB and Flood Control District of Maricopa County (FCDMC). He went on to explain the jurisdictional financial responsibilities of the various entities and gave the construction phase segment locations with associated costs and anticipated completion dates. The entire project completion is anticipated by FY 2025.

Dr. Isom commented that this project is very dynamic and political; full engagement and participation is critical in protecting the City's interests. He complemented the efforts of an excellent staff working diligently behind the scenes to ensure the City's interests are heard in the regional arena, in particular, the excellent job being performed by both the City's Intergov Amber Wakeman and the City's Engineer Jorge Gastelum. This is a long term regional project with moving parts and participants and the City needs to remain engaged over the long term.

Vice Mayor Ramirez stated we should stay vigilant because of long term planning and wondered if there is the possibility of the City not receiving what was expected at the inception of this project. Dr. Isom advised there are ever-changing faces working to develop processes but the City's Capital Plan made El

Mirage a “player” who must remain engaged in oversight and interaction with neighboring communities.

Mayor Mook stated an example of non-participation on the City’s part is missing out on buying CAP water in the past. The City suffered but has now become engaged on a regional level with many organizations that help the City such as Valley Metro, MAG, ADOT, MDOT and the Northern Parkway project.

Councilor Delgado expressed the need to be strong in the City’s position; from his past experience small cities tend to be ignored and he commended the City Manager and Council for staying diligent in this project.

7. New Employee(s)

Fire Chief Jim Wise introduced new Fire Department employee Nick Falbo who comes from Fountain Hills and Carefree. He has been a Firefighter/Medic for seven years, is married and has three young children, 11-month-old Camden and two school age children Earl and Ian. He coaches a football team and teaches Fire Pals, an education session in the public schools to teach fire safety. He started his career as a reserve firefighter in Star Valley and he has obtained medic certification through Paradise Community College in 2010 is in the process of getting his A.A.S. Degree. Mr. Falbo thanked the Council for the opportunity to work and serve the citizens of El Mirage.

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 Delgado reported he attended a meeting regarding the YMCA. Memberships consist of 51% participation from El Mirage, 46% participation from Surprise and 3% participation from other areas. In 2016 there will be a Summer Camp for special needs. He also attended the Chamber of Commerce networking breakfast as well as the Library Committee where he shared photos of the recent security improvements.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.



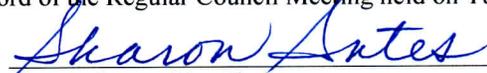
Lane Mook, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sharon Antes, City Clerk

I hereby certify the aforementioned minutes are a true and accurate record of the Regular Council Meeting held on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 and a quorum was present.



Sharon Antes, City Clerk