

**WORK STUDY SESSION
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL MIRAGE
EL MIRAGE MUNICIPAL COURT/COUNCIL CHAMBERS
14010 N. EL MIRAGE ROAD
6:00 P.M., THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2010
(Immediately after adjournment of Regular Meeting)**

Minutes

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Work Study Session was called to order by Mayor Michele Kern at 6:28 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL** – Present were: Mayor Michele Kern, Vice Mayor David Shapera, Councilmember Roger Cleveland, Councilmember Roy Delgado, Councilmember Ben Lewis, Councilmember Adam Super.
- III. **WORK SESSION**

All items listed under the Work Session will be only discussed, there will be no action (vote) taken. The Council may provide direction to City Staff on how to proceed.

A. El Mirage 2011 Budget Introduction – Revenue/Expenditures - Discussion.

Finance Director Robert Nilles gave an overview of the 2011 Budget. Since FY 07-08, there have been substantial reductions to the General Fund revenues. On a per capita basis, El Mirage collects about \$500 per resident compared to \$700 per resident when compared to other cities of similar sizes.

Since approximately FY 07-08, state shared revenues have continually declined.

Retail sales tax collections have grown significantly in FY07-08 and FY 08-09, but current sales tax collections are starting to trend down.

El Mirage, who offers police and fire protection, averages just over five (5) employees per/1000 residents, which is lower than Guadalupe, Youngtown, Litchfield Park, and many other west valley cities.

Potential expenditure reductions and potential revenue sources were discussed.

All fees are being reviewed to make sure that they cover costs and are in line with neighboring cities.

Outsourcing of certain activities such as payroll, are being reviewed.

Currently, the Senior Center and solid waste fund does not break even.

LTAF I and II funds and Heritage funds have been permanently eliminated.

Mayor Kern asked staff to look into the possibility of offering bulk trash pickup but add a fee so that the costs of the event are covered.

Recommendations for this year's budget include: Increasing restaurant & bar tax by 1%, in lieu property tax, enterprise distributions, user charges (lights/common space).

Discussion ensued regarding the option of creating a home detention program for non-violent misdemeanor criminals to help reduce expenditures.

Council and staff discussed costs/fees associated with responding to emergency calls as well as false alarms.

Mayor Kern asked staff to look into what other cities have for fees that El Mirage currently does not have.

B. General Plan – Discussion.

Community Development Director George Flores gave a brief presentation regarding the proposed General Plan and what the plan is intended to achieve.

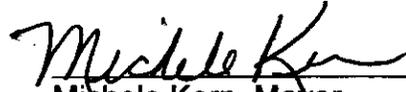
The General Plan was created after gathering input from residents, stakeholders, HOA presidents, and major land owners during a week-long Design Charrette.

Mr. Flores discussed the five proposed growth elements of the plan: Downtown Business District, Downtown Arts District, Agua Fria Gateway, The Neighborhoods, and Commerce/Industry Park.

The city is looking to move to a form-based planning concept which is best described as “form” over “function” meaning that the focus is on how things come together rather than where these things should be located.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

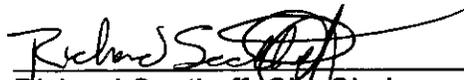
Mayor Kern adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.


Michele Kern, Mayor

ATTEST:


Richard Saathoff, City Clerk

I hereby certify the foregoing minutes are a true and accurate record of the City of El Mirage Work Study Session held March 25, 2010 and a quorum was present.


Richard Saathoff, City Clerk