REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF EL MIRAGE
EL MIRAGE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
14010 N. EL MIRAGE ROAD
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2011

Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lana Mook at 6:02 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

The Mayor presented a proclamation to Kristie Martorelli as being chosen Arizona's 2012 Teacher of the Year. Mayor Mook also presented her with a 60th Anniversary Commemorative Coin. Principal Fran Sperling also received a 60th Commemorative Coin.

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 a matter, and (3) direct that a matter be put on a future agenda.

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 Thursday, November 10, 2011, the Special Council Meeting held Wednesday, November 16, 2011 and the Special Council Meeting held Tuesday, November 29, 2011.

   Vice Mayor Shapera made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Councilor Delgado. Motion Carries, unanimously.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Presentation on improvements to Grand Avenue US 60 at Thompson Ranch Road presented by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT).

Jennifer Grentz and Troy Sieglitz of ADOT, presented a brief outline of the proposed intersection improvement project.

B. Consideration and action requesting that the Mayor and Council award a contract for the Concession/Restroom at Gentry Park (Project No. PW11-PK01A) to Merchant Industrial Contracting in the amount of $129,072.55 and approve a contingency of $4,000.00 and security improvements of $10,000 for a total amount requested of $143,072.55 while authorizing the Finance Director to transfer $56,433.55 from Council Contingency to fully fund the project.

Vice Mayor Shapera made a motion to award the contract to Merchant Industrial Contracting for the Concession/Restroom at Gentry Park; seconded by Councilor Palladino. Motion Carries, unanimously.

VII. MUNICIPAL JUDGE – JUDICIAL REPORT

Judge Mapp reported the Court has added two additional clerks to improve the Court's collection and enforcement efforts, and will shortly be embarking on a scan-and-shred project to eliminate redundant and unnecessary paper files. To accommodate our space needs we are remodeling the North end of the Court building and opening the wall between the two areas. Construction has begun on this phase of the remodeling and is expected to be finished mid-December. The contract for Phase II of the construction, involving the remodeling of the lobby and the addition of a Supreme Court-mandated conference room for attorneys, has been awarded. Construction will begin shortly, and should be completed by Spring 2012.

The Judge reported the Court is gearing up for an increase of eight-to-ten-fold in our Photo Enforcement (PE) caseload, due to the equipment recently installed on Grand Avenue. The Court, the Police Department, and the vendor have been working together to increase the speed at which tickets are arraigned, and we will be scheduling PE traffic hearings 14 times per week, up from our current two times per week. Given the increased costs of having Police officers in Court that often, the City have to may reconsider the economic viability of current levels of enforcement. The Court is also authorizing clerks to grant extensions for completion of Defensive Driving School up to 90 days at a time, and to place PE defendants on standard payment plans. Depending on the volume of Photo Enforcement cases, we may have to repurpose current staff or hire additional clerks to deal with the work.

In other court activities, the Judge reported that the updates for the Court page on the City's website have been submitted, and we are working to provide additional content and information for the public. We are also working to provide Spanish-language translated pages of the site, part of our Supreme Court-mandated "Language Access Plan."

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

Councilor Delgado reported of his attendance at the MAG Domestic Violence Committee.

IX. CITY MANAGER SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

City Manager Isom reported that the Mayor and City Council are receiving a final draft of the Annual Financial Report this evening that is unlike prior years' reports. It is a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report commonly referred to as a CAFR that entailed over 500 staff hours to compile. The document summarizes all of the City's financial activity for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2011 and includes balance sheets and income statements for every City fund providing a snapshot of the City's financial position on June 30, 2011 in comparison to June 30, 2010. It also contains an easy-to-read narrative, a notes section to explain the numbers and a statistical section with information on everything from acres of parks to unemployment rates. This report will be submitted to the Government Finance Officers Association for award consideration. You will receive a full presentation of the CAFR and be asked to approved the document at the December 22, 2011 Council Meeting.

The City Manager is pleased to announce the City's new web site went live on Monday, December 5, 2011. The new design represents a valiant effort by staff and Quick Web Solutions to migrate over 450 pages of content from the previous site to the new site design in a very short period of time. The web site is currently 50% complete and represents a milestone in achieving staff and Council goals to supply a comprehensive and innovative ways for the public to interact with local government. The foundation is set to continue implementing enhancements in user-friendly formats for the viewing public. Connie Stover from Quick Web Solutions is our consultant who coordinated creation of this web site and is here tonight to give you a visual update.

Police Chief Campbell introduced the new Assistant Police Chief Terry McDonald.

The holiday season is upon us and to help celebrate the joys and traditions of this time of year, the public is invited to celebrate Christmas in El Mirage at the City's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony tomorrow night here at the Senior Center. In addition to the tree lighting, the ceremony will feature music including a community sing-along, a reading of the "The Night Before Christmas," a variety of food vendors, and a special visit from Santa Claus who will be available for photos. Children can write letters to Santa and there will be a cake walk and dancing, Christmas movie, magic show and a balloon twister to entertain the children. The festivities will begin at 5:00 PM.

The City of El Mirage City Council, Fire and Police Employee Associations cordially invite the residents of El Mirage to the start of a new holiday tradition for the City – the first Annual Christmas Pancake Breakfast with Santa. There will be photos with Santa Claus, holiday music, the El Mirage Police Department Toy Drive and of course, pancakes! We hope all will join us for this wonderful new tradition on Saturday, December 17th, 2011- 8 a.m. to Noon.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Mook adjourned the meeting 7:16 p.m.

Lana Mook

Lana Mook, Mayor

ATTEST:

Richard Saathoff, City Clerk

I hereby certify the foregoing minutes are a true and accurate record of the City of El Mirage Regular Council Meeting held December 8, 2011 and a quorum was present.

Richard Saathoff, City Clerk