

**WORK SESSION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF EL MIRAGE
EL MIRAGE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
14010 N. EL MIRAGE ROAD
5:30 PM - TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2016**

Minutes

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Lana Mook, Vice Mayor Joe Ramirez, Councilmember Bob Jones, Councilmember Jack Palladino, Councilmember Lynn Selby, Councilmember David Shapera. Councilmember Roy Delgado arrived at 5:45 p.m.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Work Session was called to order at 5:30 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance
Moment of Silence

III. WORK SESSION

WI. Presentation of FY 2016-17 budget framework. (Finance)

Finance Director Robert Nilles presented the budget framework and revenue projections to Council. The framework includes the budget philosophy, budget roles, budget process and the City Manager's thoughts.

Mr. Nilles commented that the budget philosophy is simple but not easy. The process of balancing a budget is simple; revenues need to equal expenses and if expenses exceed revenues, then revenues need to be raised and/or expenses cut. These decisions are difficult because they are emotional, sometimes controversial, and can be politically unpopular. Policy makers need to consider three key questions when making these difficult budget decisions; 1) Are City services being provided in the most efficient, cost-effective manner possible, 2) Are customers (resident or business partner) will to pay for City services, and 3) is the amount competitive with comparable cities/towns to attract growth, or minimally, not deter growth.

To date in the budget process, departments have submitted their respective budget requests, individual departments have met with the City Manager, and revenue projections have been firmed up.

Thoughts noted from the City Manager are this year's budget is flat with revenues increasing minimally, construction projects continuing on schedule, historical projects under construction, housing values growing significantly and the business community beginning to take note of the changes. This budget will focus on "Continuing a Logical and Organized Approach to Governance and Development" building on previous year's emphasis on leadership, excellence in public service, working together, promoting incremental growth, creating stability, meeting expectations responsibly, and providing service delivery efficiencies.

Revenues including taxes, licenses and permits, intergovernmental income, grant funding, charges for services, fines and forfeitures, and miscellaneous will be 85% of the fund sources. Total revenues are projected to be \$48,598,500. He presented graphs for the City sales tax, franchise fees, primary property tax, state shared revenues, licenses and permits, charges for services, fines and forfeitures, transfers and miscellaneous; and he reported there will be no new fees!

The next steps will be to draft the Tentative Budget and provide to Council on or before April 22nd, a Council Workshop with staff will be held on May 2 and 3, and the Tentative Budget will go before Council on May 17th for approval. Following Tentative Budget approval, a Public Hearing for Property Taxes will be held and the Final Budget will be presented for adoption on June 7th, and the Property Tax adoption is scheduled for June 21st.

Dr. Isom commented this process is familiar to both Council and staff and he wants the public to understand how important the Council's goal-setting process is to the City. Council holds a goal setting session every two years to discuss goals and projects and the result of the sessions has reversed the culture of staff-driven projects to Council directed. Dr. Isom commended Council and staff for adhering to this concept, focusing on needed costs to move the organization forward, and methods to best serve the community. Stability, staying focused, and accomplishing projects that have been identified in a timely fashion shows things are going well.

IV. ADJOURNMENT - Work Session was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

**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, APRIL 5, 2016**

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

Meeting Called To Order at 6:04 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance
Moment of Silence

IV. PROCLAMATION

- P1. Proclamation in support of “*Start by Believing Day*” on April 6, 2016 to promote awareness and education for victims of domestic violence (Police Department)

Assistant Police Chief Laura Liuzzo reported the El Mirage Victims’ Assistance Unit works closely with victims in the community to insure they are supported during the investigative process. In 2014 the City of El Mirage joined other agencies in making Arizona the first state to implement the “*Start by Believing Day*” national public campaign focused on the public response to sexual assault. The goal is to allow victims an opportunity for justice and healing by including the reactions of friends, family, first responders and community. Chief Liuzzo requested support from the Council to proclaim April 6, 2016 as “*Start by Believing Day*.”

Mayor Mook stated “Now, therefore, I, Lana Mook, Mayor of the City of El Mirage, Arizona do hereby proclaim April 6, 2016 to be “*Start by Believing Day*” in El Mirage and encourage all our citizens to support the victims of sexual assault by taking the first step and start by believing.”

V. 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.

El Mirage Resident Laurie Carnal stated she had a “public service message” for Council regarding individuals at the public meetings who have hearing deficits as she does. She spelled out four requests of Council members to assist hearing impaired audience members attending Council meetings; 1) use the microphones provided and do not lean back in the chair when speaking, 2) do not turn and face the Mayor directly when speaking, 3) do not sit with hands in front of your face when speaking, and 4) speak slowly and clearly at a conversational speed. She reminded Councilors that many people with hearing loss, even those with hearing aids, use lip reading to understand. The voting public will appreciate being able to hear their elected officials.

Mayor Mook stated she has no problem being told during a meeting that Councilors cannot be heard and encouraged Mrs. Carnal and others to let the Council know when there is difficulty hearing.

VI. 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 15, 2016. (City Clerk)

2. Consideration and action to approve Resolution R16-04-13 accepting a grant award in the amount of \$16,000 from the Arizona Department of Homeland Security for Police TLO equipment. (Administration)

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

VII. REGULAR AGENDA

- A. Consideration and action to approve Resolution R16-04-12 authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to execute an addendum to the 2009 Surprise IGA assessing the City of Surprise directly for the value of recharge water related to the Original Townsite (OTS); approval is contingent upon the City of Surprise executing the addendum. (Finance)

Finance Director Robert Nilles explained the same addendum being proposed tonight is also simultaneously on the City of Surprise agenda for consideration. He explained the 2009 agreement is for water service to the City of Surprise Original Townsite. The City of El Mirage contracted Red Oak to perform a study to determine lost water costs related to sewer charges in the City of Surprise. Based on the study, an amount was determined and the City of Surprise at that time declined to pay the fee directly; they instead directed the City of El Mirage to charge the Surprise customers directly. The City of Surprise has now decided they will pay the fees directly, on a quarterly basis, rather than have the citizens pay directly. Staff recommends agreement as soon as the City of Surprise has adopted the addendum. Once adopted, the fees will be dropped from the customer's bills in the Original Townsite.

Mayor Mook asked how much it would save the average user in the Surprise Original Townsite and Mr. Nilles replied that the amount would depend on whether the customer is residential or commercial. Residential customers will save approximately \$9.00/month or approximately \$100/year and commercial customers will save approximately \$51.00 per month.

Councilor Jones asked how much revenue would be expected from this change and Mr. Nilles explained there would not be an increase since this was a change in source rather than an increase in revenue. The City of Surprise will pay \$362,000 per year rather than the residential customers being individually charged.

Councilor Shapera asked whether 5-year-old estimates or actual figures were being used since the new meters have been installed to which Mr. Nilles explained the figures are based on a winter quarter average which is the same methodology used for City of El Mirage customers and the results the Red Oak Study.

Vice Mayor Ramirez asked if the City of Surprise is still receiving credit for the recharge value since citizens of both cities have started being charged. Mr. Nilles reported that the City of Surprise has received the credits for water recharge since the water credit system went into place in the 80's or 90's. However, the City of El Mirage did a study and approached the City of Surprise in 2010/11 to begin the repayment process moving forward so the City of El Mirage did not have to pay CAP or another organization to recharge water for service provided to the City of Surprise.

Councilor Delgado stated he has seen a number of invoices from residents in Old Town Surprise that were being charged \$20 for sewer and asked what would be the real savings to residents. Mr. Nilles reported the average savings to residents would be \$9.00 but if residents have large families or large water use, their bill may be higher. The charge is based on the rate per 1,000 gallons, same as for City of El Mirage residents, and is relative to actual usage during the winter quarter usage.

Vice Mayor Ramirez moved to approve Resolution R16-04-12 authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to execute an addendum to the 2009 Surprise IGA assessing the City of Surprise directly for the value of recharge water related to the Original Townsite (OTS); approval is contingent upon the City of Surprise executing the addendum; seconded by Councilor Jones. Motion carried unanimously (7/0).

VIII. 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. Cinco de Mayo Event – Public Relations Manager Amber Wakeman reported the 2016 Cinco de Mayo Fiesta will be held on Friday, April 29th from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Gentry Park on El Mirage Road. Musical guests include Marysol Ortiz, Ballet Folklorico, Esperanza and Powerdrive and there will be a Kid's Zone featuring FREE pony rides. The Beer Garden will provide \$2.00 Beers and \$3.00 Margaritas. Admission is free!
2. Dr. Isom explained the El Mirage Road closure from Cactus south to Peoria for April and May stating the nature of the closing is related to utility scheduling challenges with APS. He further advised there were some miscommunications and misunderstandings with the Dysart Unified School District relative to prior notification. The school district's main concern was adequate notification to the parents and safety of the children. Dr. Isom met with the Dysart Unified School District Superintendent and staff to assure them the City was taking all measures to address their issues; Assistant City Engineer Chris Hauser was appointed the direct City contact with the school district to contact on any concerns. Additional police presence was provided on the first Monday of the closure and additional signage was put up along 127th Avenue. Communication was restored and the safety of the children is a mutual high priority of the City as well as the school district.

IX. 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.

Vice Mayor Ramirez noted that as temporarily inconvenient as the El Mirage Road closure may be, he has received very positive comments from residents who are excited about the progress and looking forward to the final restoration.

Mayor Mook stated she is very happy and excited about the project underway and positive results forthcoming.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.



Lana Mook, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sharon Antes, City Clerk

I hereby certify the aforementioned minutes are a true and accurate record of the City of El Mirage Council Workshop Session and Regular Session held on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 and a quorum was present.



Sharon Antes, City Clerk