

**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 19, 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

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

III. PRESENTATION

- P1.** Presentation of Maricopa County Election Department's PowerPoint on a Review of the 2016 Presidential Preference Election and a Preview of the 2016 State Special Election and August Primary Election (City Clerk)

City Clerk Sharon Antes presented a PowerPoint presentation given at the Maricopa County Elections Department monthly Community Networking meeting that reviewed the Presidential Preference (PPE) Election and previewed the upcoming May 17th Special Election and the August 30th Primary Election.

The review of the PPE election showed there were 1,238,792 eligible registered voters with 621,976 counted ballots resulting in a 50.21% total turnout. Early ballot requests totaled 897,247 with 536,183 being returned; 2,411 of those returned were not counted for various reasons. Provisional ballots received totaled 24,630. It was pointed out that only 4,631 of the provisional ballots were counted and 19,999 were not counted. Of those not counted, the vast majority (18,322) were not eligible to vote in this election. The balance of the ballots did not count because of not being registered at all, incomplete, insufficient ID, or previously voting an early ballot that was counted. Maricopa County determined the number of polling locations for the PPE election using estimated figures based on the 2008 PPE which had a large voter turnout. The County's estimates were not far from the actual figures, (estimated total qualified to participate was 1.2M and the actual was 1,238,792, the estimated number of voters per polling place was 1,188 and the actual was 1,391 rounded up to 1,500), however, since this election allowed voters to vote at any one of the 60 polling locations, the actual voters at any one location varied greatly. The media implied that all 60 polling locations encountered unreasonably long wait periods, but the statistics proved otherwise. Communicating with residents through newsletter articles focused on election information in the El Mirage News, and postings

of information on the website and social media for El Mirage resulted in very few inquiries preceding and on Election Day.

The review of the PPE was followed by a preview of the May 17th Special Election which will include Proposition 123 amending the Constitution relating to Education Finance and Proposition 124 amending the Constitution relating to Public Safety Public Retirement Systems. Early voting begins April 20th and the last day to request an early ballot is May 6th. Early ballots can be mailed to Maricopa County and must be received by 7:00 pm on May 17th or they can be dropped off at any one of the three Maricopa County Election offices. Ms. Antes also noted that special arrangements have recently been made to have a ballot box on Election Day only (May 17th) to collect completed mail in ballots. For the May 17th Special Election there will be 116 polling locations (rather than the PPE 60), and voters can choose to vote at any one of the 116 polling locations; registered Independents can vote in this non-partisan election.

There was also a preview of the upcoming August 30th Primary Election at the County Meeting where it was noted that all voters on the Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL) will be sent a 90-day notice (June 1, 2016) stating that partisan voters will receive an early ballot by mail and Independent voters will be asked to select an early ballot type, either Republican, Democrat, Green OR City/Town Only. Independent voters on PEVL who do not request a specific ballot type will not receive a ballot in the mail. Voter registration deadline is August 1, 2016. The Primary election ballot will include Federal races, State races, County races, and for the City of El Mirage, three Councilmember seats. Ballots are available in English, Spanish and Tohono O'odham languages and in five different formats, Standard, Spanish, Large Print, Braille and Touch Screen Voting Machines (provides audio of ballot).

The Primary Election will have assigned voting locations at all precincts and of the 1500 precincts in the State of Arizona, approximately 750 are in Maricopa County; there is a need for approximately 10,000 poll workers on each of the August 30th and November 8th election days. Poll workers are paid, Spanish speaking poll workers can receive a premium, and there is a student STEP UP program for teens to become involved in the election process. Those interested can contact Colleen M. Redmond, the Board Worker Recruiter Staff Supervisor, at 602-372-3713 or credmond@risc.maricopa.gov.

Ms. Antes then provided a shorter PowerPoint presentation with general election information. She stated that in 2016 there are four separate elections and pointed out why there is voter confusion. In the PPE election there were 60 polling locations, voters could vote at any one of the locations, and Independents could NOT vote. In the May 17th election, there will be 116 polling locations, voters can vote at any one of the locations, and Independents CAN vote. In the August 30th Primary Election, there will be assigned voting locations in each precinct and while Independents can vote in the Primary, they must select a ballot in order to vote. And the November 8th General Election will also have assigned polling locations and Independents can vote without having to select a ballot.

Ms. Antes stated the City will continue to provide voters information through newsletter articles, and website and social media postings. She also pointed out the ways to avoid waiting in line to vote at a polling location; one can vote early and in person, one can request an early ballot for any one election, or one can sign up to be placed on the Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL) and automatically receive a ballot in the mail as long as one is registered. Early voting for the May 17th election can be done at one of the three County Election Centers; for the Primary and General Election, El Mirage City Hall will be an early voting site.

Voting statistics have shifted dramatically in recent years and of 3,297,880 statewide registered voters, the largest group is now Independents with 1,183,800 registered voters followed by Republicans with 1,131,838, Democrats at 952,527, Libertarian at 25,333 and Green at 4,382. Historically, from 2000 to 2014, average voter turnout for Primary elections has been 25%-30%, and for General elections, 45-50% in a non-presidential year and 75% in a presidential election year.

She summarized items for the May 17th election; two non-partisan items will be on the ballot, Proposition 123 and 124; early voting begins April 20th, last day to request an early ballot is May 6th, last day to mail in a ballot to insure delivery by Election Day is May 13th, and Election Day is May 17th. There will be two polling locations in El Mirage; one at the Dysart Community Center and the other at Sunset View Baptist Church. Maps will be available at City Hall front desk for anyone needing directions.

Councilor Selby asked what percentage of the total counted ballots were early ballots; Ms. Antes stated she would obtain that specific information and report to him.

Councilor Delgado asked if he would be getting a ballot in the mail for the May 17th election since he is on the PEVL list and Ms. Antes answered yes, they should be mailed out very soon.

Vice Mayor Ramirez asked if in the future Independents will be allowed to vote and Ms. Antes stated she did not have a concrete answer but since the registered number of voters has grown so large, there may be that possibility in the future.

IV. PROCLAMATIONS

P2. Proclamation declaring May 2016 as Building Safety Month (Fire Department)

Building Official Mary Dickson presented the May 2016 Building Safety Month Proclamation. She reported the City continues to address the critical issues of safety, energy efficiency, water conservation, and resilience in the built environment that affect citizens, both in everyday life and in times of natural disaster giving confidence that structures are safe. Building and Safety Month is sponsored by the International Code Council to remind the public about the critical role of each community's relative unknown guardians of public safety. Each year, in observance of Building Safety Month, Americans are asked to

consider projects to improve building safety and sustainability at home and in the community, and to acknowledge the essential service provided to all by local building departments, fire prevention bureaus and federal agencies in protecting lives and property.

Mayor Mook then proclaimed the month of May 2016 as Building Safety Month and accordingly, encouraged citizens to join their communities in participation in Building Safety Month activities.

P3. Proclamation to support Power Talk 21® Day, April 21, 2016 (Police Department)

Police Chief Terry McDonald presented the Power Talk 21® Day, April 21, 2016 Proclamation. This is a national day for parents and families to start the conversation with kids about alcohol and the dangers of under-age drinking. High school students who use alcohol or other substances are five times more likely to drop out of school or believe good grades are not important. Twenty-seven percent of middle school students try alcohol before graduating from 8th grade, significantly increasing the risk that they will develop alcohol problems later in life. To equip parents to talk with their teens about alcohol, Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) Arizona will host on April 21st Power of Parents® workshops to give parents the tools to effectively talk with their children about alcohol to protect them. The City of El Mirage urges all citizens to join in the local and national efforts to raise awareness of the importance of parents and teens talking together about alcohol in order to reduce the risks and dangers posed to teens and communities.

Mayor Mook then proclaimed April 21, 2016 to be PowerTalk 21® Day and encouraged all citizens to participate in this worthy effort.

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.

No Comment Cards were received.

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, April 5, 2016. (City Clerk)
2. Consideration and action to approve the destruction of municipal documents that have reached the end of their retention period as authorized under A.R.S. §41-151.19.

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

VII. REGULAR AGENDA - No Items

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 Cinco de Mayo Fiesta 2016 will be held at Gentry Park on April 29th from 6:00-10:00 p.m. and includes live entertainment, a beer garden and huge children's area.

2. New Employees

Police Chief Terry McDonald introduced Christopher Madonna and his wife Amy. Christopher comes from the Payson Police Department and prior to that he had 18 years with the City of Phoenix under their Parks and Recreation Department. He is very pleased to have a seasoned officer who will be on the streets shortly.

Officer Madonna thanked everyone for giving him a warm welcome; he stated is very comfortable here and looks forward to serving this community. He thanks Council for the opportunity.

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.

Councilor Shapera reported April 10th thru April 16th was National Public Safety Tele-communicators Week; he commended the dispatchers in El Mirage and Surprise as an extremely talented group and he wanted to acknowledge them.

Councilor Delgado reported he met with Jorge Gastelum, Janeen Gaskins and Councilor Palladino regarding projects to submit to CDBG. There are four or five projects under consideration and he is pleased so many past projects have been completed. Councilor Delgado also met with the County Board for their Citizen's Advisory Committee and they are starting the Summer Reading Program. They are submitting literature to the school to encourage students of all ages to visit their local library.

Vice Mayor Ramirez commended the Engineering Department and Dr. Isom for taking care of calls he received from teachers regarding the sidewalk construction from 127th Avenue to the school. The sidewalk is used by many children and there was concern for their safety because of the construction of the water line.

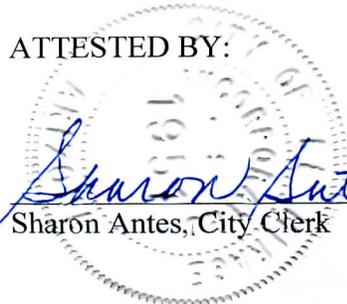
X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.



Lane Mook, Mayor

ATTESTED BY:




Sharon Antes, City Clerk

I hereby certify the aforementioned minutes are a true and accurate record of the Regular Council Meeting held on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 and a quorum was present.



Sharon Antes, City Clerk