

Sunday, February 24, 2008 – Special Council Meeting Minutes

Roll Call:

Call to Order:

Mayor Truitt called the Special Council Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at Rio Community College located at 12535 Smokey Drive, Surprise, and AZ. 85374 on Sunday, February 24, 2008.

Staff Present: ACM, Kathy Rice; ACM, Doug Sandstrom; Deputy City Manager, Sintra Hoffman;

Reflections on Yesterday's Session

Council Member Longabaugh – Unification with Council & Staff. We have our different opinions, but it is obvious, we are all working for the same results.

Council Member Alton – Work for the betterment of the City, not our own hidden agendas. Work together as a TEAM! Not a politician, and in the learning process of how the City functions. Nice to meet staff and learn about their personal lives. Will always be the conscience of the City. I hope that staff takes back what we have learned to their staff. I am hoping that it won't be distorted.

We need to stay in touch with our constituents, the election is over, but we need to stay out there. Let's share with Council and staff what we are hearing out there.

Council Member Williams – Was not sure how the day was going to go, but at the end of the day, it was very beneficial by building relationships and knocked down the barriers. We need to leave the past behind and move forward. It is a new day in Surprise, we have turned the page.

Vice-Mayor Villanueva – Yesterday was an excellent day. I found out that Council has the same goals as employees. We all want to work for the same goals. I am looking forward to working with everyone, and I have faith in staff. We learned about each other.

Mayor Truitt – This is a process that we hold ourselves accountable, and follow through with what we have talked about yesterday. I brought up the Creative Surprise idea, but realize that I pushed it way too early and will let the idea go for now, and hope that Council will think about it over time. I don't want to talk about old Council anymore; we are talking about one of our members when we do that. We all want our staff to be successful, so if we don't follow it, I will be disappointed.

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Council Member Johnson – Liked to hear what staff had to say, and what ideas and thoughts the new Council has for the future. Everything we do is relationships, staff, council, residents, etc. With the world of technology, it is nice to have a face to face conversation. Innovative and creative, we heard a lot of that yesterday. We really don't have that many differences, but need the open lines communication to make it all work together. Talk is cheap; it is what you get done. Productivity, are we going to stick to what we are saying. I want to see things get done.

ACM, Doug Sandstrom – Time to turn the page from the old Council. Car with wheels out of alignment. There is a lot that is in common with the current strategic plan, but we all have that same vision. We are not throwing out the old, but making some adjustments.

DCM, Sintra Hoffman – We have always been turning the page in Surprise. We have had a lot of staff turnover, and it has always been evolving, and going in the right direction. There are a lot of things to fix, but we have also had a lot of accomplishments. Yesterday was very positive, and now we can move forward.

Kathy Rice – Learning about each of the Council was a wonderful experience and good to hear that each of them want staff to be successful.

Michael Bailey – Unique position with new Council, am excited to move forward.

Skip Hall (Observer) Thought there were excellent exercises with staff and Council. Created a lot of conversation. Being out in the community, we want to see things happen now. I can go back to the residents and let them know what was discussed, and what our goals are. We have seen a lot of change over the years, and residents wanted a change.

Martha Bails (Observer) Appreciated the conversation and transition that took place yesterday. For some reason, the elected officials put pressure on staff. You as Council need to make staff totally accountable. Need to stop giving direction other than on the dais. That is the whole bottom line. You may have 6 new Council Members reviewing the budget process. There are some major things that this Council will be placed with. I was not in favor of the Mayor hiring new staff around the process. Always remember, you are one vote.

Bob Stype (Observer) Thought the session was a good first step, "let's see how we move forward".

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Priscila Ferreira (Observer) Thought the session was very positive for building relationships. If you don't have a relationship, you are not going to move forward and be positive and get the job done.

A Code of Teamwork and Cooperation:

- What happened in the past needs to stay in the past. From today on, I agree to move forward with my policy partners for the good of the community's future.
- I am dedicated to two-way communication with the formal leader of the group, and the other members of pursuing this goal, I will communicate frequently, and I will focus on generating the highest-quality understanding through that communication.
- I will develop a personal understanding of my policy partners' individual long-range agenda.
- If I want to know something my policy partners know, I'll ask them.
- If I have a position on an issue, I'll let my policy partners know what it is.
- If I have a position on an issue and I change my mind, I'll let everyone know as soon as reasonably possible.
- Because the leader of the group has the formal responsibility for assuring frequent, high quality communication, I will use the leader as a sounding board to test ideas and discuss any difficulties I might encounter.
- In return for my commitment to this Code of Teamwork and Cooperation, I expect the leader and the other members of the policy team to reciprocate as follows:
 - If you have concerns that involve me, call that person directly as soon as possible to ask. Likewise, if you have concerns about other members, you need to call them. Don't let me be surprised!!! If you know something that will have an effect on me or on issues I have an interest in, let me know.
 - Don't passively accept being misquoted. If a comment isn't accurate is attributed to you, then you have the responsibility of actively trying to correct it.

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- Don't say anything negative about a policy partner behind his or her back.
- Respect each other's personal and physical space.

The things we do today will have an affect on tomorrow's interpersonal effectiveness! Let's make it positive.

Truitt – Let's do something a little different, my thoughts on calling staff. I respect staff's time, off time is family time. What is others expectations?

Action – Mr. Decker to give Council a report and forward to Attorney and Interim City Manager.

Showed video of Kirkwood, Missouri. – Talked to Council about their ideas of security.

Truitt – Talked to Chief Hughes about what the City's security plan consisted of. We have a plan in place during Council Meetings.

Skip Hall – Metal detectors? City Hall parking lot – very dark.

Our Priorities:

Review of priorities from yesterday (Council)

Work on 5 mid-term goals –

Financial Sustainability - #1

Action Planning Process –

What needs to be done?

ACM, Doug Sandstrom explained the Strategic Plan to the Mayor & Council – bullet points.

Mayor & Council compared the Strategic Plans to the 5 & 10 year goals discussed on Saturday with City staff. Adjustments were suggested to the original document.

Action Plan:

Process the information from these meetings and send Doug and Interim CM copies. Mr. Decker to provide by March 3, 2008. Include code of operation. Send completed staff work information as part of material.

Identify the items on the list of priorities that are already in the current City Plans – Rice by the 1st of April 2008.

Integrate the current Strategic Plan with information that we developed at this meeting – March 31, 2008. direction that occurred this weekend from the Council & Staff into the supportive objectives of the vision of the City (Sandstrom) at a future work session.

Hold a Budget Retreat (CM/Council) – April 18, 2008.

Discuss, consideration and action on the Action Plan (CM & Mayor) to place on agenda no later than May 31, 2008. Council discusses, reviews, refines and adopts a revised Strategic Plan (CM & Mayor).

Create a plan for increasing participation for the General Plan Amendment (Mayor) and bring it to the Council for their information and comment by March 31, 2008.

Give the Council a report on increased and coordinated marketing on Surprise. Overall public about Surprise. The Strategic Plan is part of the marketing. (Sintra) - M

Determine how to package events. Staff report to Council on event packaging.

Would have been helpful to have the Strategic Plan discussion before this meeting (Sintra)

Plus Delta:

Great lunch (Mayor)

Direction to resolution very positive but should have had a meeting with Council prior to this meeting (Bailey).

Creation of an Action Plan (Mayor)

Staff was comfortable with discussion - Atmosphere (Johnson)

Other things that need to get done:

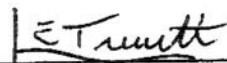
The word "maintain" seems to be a problem with everyone since we need to obtain the items first.

Mayor adjourned the Special Council Meeting at 1:00 p.m. to enter an Executive Session.

Motion – Alton

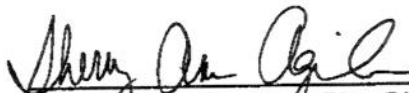
Second – Longabaugh

Vote – 6 yes votes to adjourn at 1:00 p.m.



L.E. Truitt, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sherry Ann Aguilar, City Clerk, CMC

CERTIFICATION:

I, Sherry Ann Aguilar, City Clerk for the City of Surprise, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby verify that these are the true and correct minutes of the Special City Council Meeting of **Sunday, February 24, 2008.**



Sherry Ann Aguilar, City Clerk, CMC