

Special City Council Meeting – January 3, 2008

Call to Order:

Roll Call:

Mayor L.E. Truitt called the **Special City Council Meeting** to order at 6:00 p.m., at Surprise City Hall Council Chamber 12425 West Bell Road, Suite D-100 Surprise, Arizona 85374, on **Thursday, January 3, 2008**. Also in attendance with Mayor Truitt were Council Members; John Longabaugh; Richard Alton; John Williams; Roy Villanueva; Joe Johnson & Gwyn Foro.

Staff Present:

City Manager, Jim Rumpeltes; City Attorney, Michael Bailey; Assistant City Manager, Kathy Rice; Assistant City Manager, Doug Sandstrom; IT Director, Randy Jackson; Deputy City Manager, Sintra Hoffman; IT Staff, Michael Sollano and City Clerk, Sherry Ann Aguilar.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Invocation: Mayor Truitt asked for a moment of silence.

ITEM # 1 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Rebecca Spear commented that she is a resident of Greenway Parc III and is opposed to the proposed Imagine Charter School that is being proposed. She is concerned about the amount of traffic that will be coming through their overcrowded subdivision with an estimated count of over 700 cars per day. She asked that Council not consider approval of this item when it comes before them.

Sharon Marko congratulated the incoming new Council and commented that this truly is a new day for Surprise and wants the Mayor and Council to succeed. She further thanked City Manager Rumpeltes for his hard work and dedication to the City of Surprise and expressed deep disappointment in his announcement to retire, and asked Council to encourage Mr. Rumpeltes to stay on longer than March and for Council to do a nationwide search for a new City Manager.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING:

- Item #2 - Consideration and action on **Resolution No. 08-18** - repealing all prior City Council policies setting forth the process determining Council Members representation on regional and staff boards, commissions and committees – **APPROVED**

Mayor Truitt gave a brief explanation for requesting this item.

Council Member Villanueva made a motion to approve Resolution No. 08-18; A Resolution repealing all prior City Council policies setting forth the process determining Council Members representation on regional and staff boards, commissions and committees. Council Member Longabaugh seconded the motion. 7 yes votes. Motion carried.

- Item #3 - Consideration and action on the contracts for the following appointed employees: City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk – **APPROVED**

City Attorney Bailey gave a brief explanation of this item. No Council or public comments were received.

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Council Member Johnson made the motion to ratify: 1. The City Manager contract entered into with Jim Rumpeltes on May 24, 2006 and to accept his resignation for March 1, 2008; 2. The city Attorney contract entered into with Michael D. Bailey on May 24, 2006 and 3. The City Clerk contract entered into with Sherry Aguilar on May 24, 2006. Council Member Foro seconded the motion. 7 yes votes. Motion carried.

- Item #4 – Consideration and action to enter into **service agreements** for an Assistant to the Mayor and Council and Cultural Director and a transfer from Council Contingencies – **APPROVED ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL, TABLED CULTURAL DIRECTOR UNTIL THE NEXT BUDGET PROCESS**

Public Comments:

Jim Wollcott commented that he spent many years as a Council Member in Minnesota and is trying to understand how things are done in Arizona. He commented that there should be no special meeting especially when there is a regular council meeting scheduled for next week. He expressed concern about Council using contingency funds to hire these two positions. He inquired about the rush and why the positions not being posted for normal hiring process. He asked that Council take their time and do this the right way.

Council Comments:

Richard Alton asked Mayor Truitt to explain to the public, the importance of these two positions due to pressing important issues coming forward.

Council Member Foro commented that she is not in agreement of taking money from the Contingency Funds for these positions. I have direct contact with the public and want to continue, and not have a staff person represent me. I don't see that Council members are busy enough to justify this position. We already have staff in place for these duties. Foro recommended that we conduct a study on the position and this should wait until the budget process.

Council Member Williams commented that the position of Assistant to the Mayor and Council is a necessary position in order to streamline the agenda process. He compared the City of Surprise with this type of position that exists in the City of Peoria. He also would like to see a process in place for hiring of these positions, but knows that this position needs to be hired right away.

Council Member Johnson spoke on the Cultural Director and commented that he feels differently about this position and feels that the duties of this position are being covered by several existing City Departments such as Recreation, Economic Development and Community Development. He further commented that he agrees with the positions, but wants more detail on how this position will be created, advertising, etc.

Mayor Truitt commented that his goal is to make the City Government more transparent and these two positions will help with this process.

Action #1:

Council Member Johnson made the motion to approve the contract for Miryam Gutier-Brown for the position of Assistant to the Mayor and Council starting with the date of Thursday, January 3, 2008 for a 6 month period and with the following changes:

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- 1) Change the contract and Job Description from wherever it says "Mayor" to say "Mayor and Council Assistant".
- 2) Change the section where it says "Reviews and recommends all Mayor & Council Expenditures" to leave as is that all expenditures come before Council for approval.
- 3) Remove the section that says "Coordinating appointments and reappointments of the City's Advisory Boards".
- 4) All sections of the Job Description that says "Represents" should be removed since the Mayor should appoint the Vice-Mayor or another Council Member to represent the Mayor.

Seconded by Council Member Alton. 6 yes votes, 1 no vote (Foro).

Action #2:

Council Member Johnson made the motion to table the Cultural Director position to the next budget process. Seconded by Council Member Longabaugh. 5 yes votes to table, 2 no votes (Truitt & Williams). Motion carried to table this item until the next budget process.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council Member Longabaugh made a motion to enter Executive Session at 6:36 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Johnson. Seven yes votes. Motion carried.

Mayor Truitt reconvened the Special City Council Meeting at 7:51 p.m.

- Item # 5 – Consideration and action regarding matters regarding the City Manager Position – ARS 38-431.03 (A)(1) – **APPROVED FORMING A 3 MEMBER COMMITTEE TO BRING BACK SUGGESTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL.**

Council Member Johnson made a motion to form a 3 member committee consisting of Mayor Truitt and Council Members Johnson and Villanueva to bring back suggestions and a recommendation to the January 10, 2008 Council Meeting for the City Manager Replacement Process. Seconded by Council Member Longabaugh. 7 yes votes. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Truitt adjourned the Special City Council Meeting of **Thursday, January 3, 2008 @ 7:57 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 **Thursday, January 3, 2008.**


Sherry Ann Aguilar, City Clerk, CMC