



CITY OF SURPRISE

City Council Work Session Minutes

125 West Bell Road, D-100
Surprise, AZ 85374

Thursday, December 4, 2008 @ 04:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER.

A. Roll Call

Mayor Truitt called the **Special City Council Work Session** to order at 04:00 p.m. Surprise City Hall Council Chamber 12425 West Bell Road, D-100 Surprise, Arizona 85374 , on **Thursday, December 4, 2008**. Also in attendance with Mayor Truitt were Vice Mayor Villanueva, Council Member Longabaugh, Council Member Alton, Council Member Williams, Council Member Johnson, and Council Member Hall.

Staff Present: City Manager, Randy Oliver, Assitant City Manager, Kathy Rice, Assistant City Manager, Doug Sandstrom, City Attorney, Michael Bailey, and City Clerk, Sherry Aguilar.

B. Pledge of Allegiance - None

C. Invocation - None

D. Approval of items on the Consent Agenda - all items with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine matters and will be enacted by one motion and one roll call vote to the City Council. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Councilmember requests, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda - NONE

E. Current Events and Reports by Mayor and City Council - Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.02(k) the chief administrator, presiding officer or a member of a public body may present a brief summary of current events without listing the agenda the specific matters to be summarized, provided that 1) The summary is listed on the agenda; and 2) The public body does not propose, discuss, deliberate or take legal action at that meeting on any matter in the summary unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action - NONE

Mayor Truitt called the **Special City Council Work Session** to order at 04:00 p.m. Surprise City Hall Council Chamber 12425 West Bell Road, D-100 Surprise, Arizona 85374 , on **Thursday, December 4, 2008**. Also in attendance with Mayor Truitt were Vice Mayor Villanueva, Council Member Longabaugh, Council Member Alton, Council Member Williams, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Hall, and Assistant City Manager, Kathy Rice.

Staff Present: City Manager, Randy Oliver, Assistant City Manager, Doug Sandstrom, City Attorney, Michael Bailey, and City Clerk, Sherry Aguilar.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

CONSENT AGENDA - NONE

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA:

#1. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS/NON PUBLIC HEARINGS:

In an attempt to improve review timelines, quality, and work in a more effective manner, the community development department in a joint effort with all departments involved with development review is proposing a streamlined process that will efficiently combine processes while coordinating all aspects of development. An improvement in quality is expected as a result of intensive coordination between disciplines and individual projects
- NO ACTION

Community Development Director, Jeff Mihelich gave a detailed presentation regarding streamlining the development review process.

Topics included: Ombudsman - identify one member of the development staff to work with the development and would limit having to deal with more than one person. If the Ombudsman cannot assist, there will be a protocol in place of the next person to contact.

Council Member Hall commented on; site plans while on Planning & Zoning, would like to see a clearer process in place and Conditional Use Permits.

Council Member Johnson commented on; would like to see CUP's come to the Council, right now they do only if they are appealed, site plans are set, but concerned with CUP's, it is part of Council's job and feels that it is important to come before us, but still needs to go before P&Z as well.

Mayor Truitt commented on; P& Z Commission is a valuable tool to the city with lots of education, research before voting on issues, can not see that Council has the time to do this when Council should be dealing with policy issues, concerned with Council taking on these additional responsibilities and he is confident in their decisions.

Council Member Alton inquired about major and minor CUP's.

Mayor Truitt commented on; CUP's and Board of Adjustments, including CUP's in the City Manager report.

Council Member Hall commented on; leaving the process as is, but want to be made aware of certain problems.

Council Member Longabaugh stated he would like to stay the same.

Council Member Alton stated that he likes the idea of the City Manager giving an update on major CUP's. If Council needs to put it on the agenda, I would agree with that.

Mayor Truitt commented; giving CD the opportunity to show us it will work for a one year period of time.

Jeff Mihelich reported on the following; Internal TAC review process, lengthy but it works well in other areas, 15 day review and it will be quicker in the long run and cheaper.

Council Member Alton stated that this works for him as long as we have good follow up by the City.

Mayor Truitt stated that the process needs to be clear to the applicant.

#2. Discussion with Arts and Cultural Advisory Board regarding the Arts in Surprise - NO ACTION

Kristi Miller, Board Chair introduced the Arts Board Members to the Council and conducted a powerpoint presentation relating to Arts in Surprise. She commented on; looking at creating a museum at the new City Hall, Traveling Art Program, an exhibition, Grants Program and would like to hold a cultural event.

Vice Mayor Villanueva inquired about city hall art and the financial shortfall.

Mayor Truitt commented on; public art increases the economy, he thanked the Arts Board for being interested in our entry monuments in the city and partnering with the museums and other organizations.

Council Member Williams commented on; expanding our programs beyond cultural art, bring more diversity including music.

Council Member Alton commented on; workshop is long coming, board has done a great job, encourage citizen involvement, encouraging artist's to open businesses in Surprise, working with Dysart youth and the use of money.

Val Hagenbush stated that some cities have bundled attractions (Hotel and restaurant tickets), etc.

Council Member Hall stated that he would like to see the West Valley and Heard Museums be more utilized, venues for local artists and marketing the local talent.

Mayor Truitt - I did a promotional spot - Our museums have great gift shops. We need to spread the word about the unique gifts located in these shops.

Council Member Johnson - I am a big promoter of our facilities and we have events coming in. If the public knows ahead of time before our events, they will take advantage of what we have available.

Dot Reeve stated that she is a potter and involved with many groups here and commented on having workshops.

City Manager Oliver commented on; being clear on how the art dollars are spent. Then inquired if Council is comfortable with this particular commission making these determinations?

Mayor Truitt stated to leave it up to the Arts Board.

Council Member Hall stated that 1% is a good number but the problem is an artist from out of state

doing a piece in Surprise. Would like to keep the money local if possible.

Council Member Alton stated that he would like to see the utilization of amateurs as well as students and rotate the art on a regular basis.

#3. Maricopa County Flood Control District would like to inform the Council of all the District Projects and Studies that affect the City - NO ACTION

Maricopa County Flood Control District representative gave a detailed powerpoint presentation on studies that affect the area.

Council Member Longabaugh commented on the following; thanked them for coming out to Wittmann to visit our planning area and educating residents.

#4. Presentation and discussion regarding the draft of the proposed updated materials relating to the city's sign code - NO ACTION

Community Development Director, Jeff Mihelich gave a detailed presentation relating to the proposed changes to the City's sign ordinances. There are a number of inconsistencies relating to our current sign code and are not clear. The current code is frankly outdated. We need direction from Council on current signage, temporary signs, etc.

Discussion regarding temporary signs:

Council Member Alton commented on; concerns with Code Enforcement and placement of signs.

Jeff Mihelich stated that without a good sign code it is not easy to monitor.

Council Member Hall commented on question #5 and evaluating the quality of signs.

Vice Mayor Villanueva commented on; size of a sign will increase by 25% and the Wal-Mart sign was part of a special deal during the PAD process.

Freeway Signs - There are no current standards for freeway signs. What are your thoughts on this?

Mr. James Carpenter - The staff has done a good job in the areas of signs, but the sign association does have some concerns about the proposed changes. The Sign Association was not plugged in earlier but would like to have the opportunity to discuss issues with staff prior to Council approval.

Council Member Alton inquired of the involvement of the association.

Council Member Hall commented on; internal neon, letters go out when it rains and a well built sign will not have water come in.

Mayor Truitt commented on; this weekend is the Surprise Party, Christmas Tree Lighting and other activities going on.

Council Member Longabaugh commented on; Roadrunner Basketball Tournament @ West Valley High School.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Truitt adjourned the Special City Council Work Session of December 4, 2008 at 6:07 p.m.

L.E. Truitt, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sherry Ann Aguilar, City Clerk,

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 Work Session of **Thursday, December 4, 2008.**

Sherry Ann Aguilar, City Clerk,