

Special City Council Meeting (Retreat) Minutes – Friday, February 20, 2009

Call to Order:

Roll Call:

Mayor Truitt called the Special City Council Meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 20, 2009 at Rio Salado College located at 12535 West Smokey Drive, Surprise, Arizona 85374. Also in attendance with Mayor Truitt were: Vice-Mayor, Joe Johnson, Council Members John Longabaugh, Richard Alton, John Williams, Roy Villanueva & Skip Hall.

Staff in Attendance:

City Manager, Randy Oliver; City Attorney, Michael Bailey; Assistant City Manager, Doug Sandstrom; Assistant City Manager, Kathy Rice; Deputy City Manager, Sintra Hoffman; Fire Chief, Mike White; Community & Recreation Services Director, Mark Coronado; Human Resources Director Jim Bowers and City Clerk, Sherry Ann Aguilar.

The City of Surprise Mayor and Council will hold a retreat to discuss the following topics:

- Overview of and status of items from the last Council Retreat – City Manager , Randy Oliver gave a brief overview of Summary of Commitments made at the first retreat (Power point presentation).

The Intergovernmental Manager position was filled for Mayor and City Council.

Request For Proposal - Re-Use of City Hall Complex – Information coming to Council soon.

Council Questions:

Council Member Villanueva – Where was the park on the south side of the Original Townsite scheduled for?

CRS Director, Mark Coronado – SW side of Grand Avenue and Dysart.

- Compassionate Surprise Overview – CRS Director, Mark Coronado gave a brief overview of services and programs available to Surprise residents. Coronado explained the characteristics of existing programs and resources.

CRS Director Coronado – Are we going in the right direction? What selection process for event would you prefer?

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Mayor Truitt – We want to tell a story and we have a lot of good projects going on in the community. There have been many projects led by Council such as recent fund raiser for employee, Pride Days, etc. Maybe we can partner with different churches and charities in the community, and not necessarily spend money we don't have.

Council Member Hall – We interviewed 13 applicants for Tourism Committee. The over arching message from the applicants was that there is not a consistent cohesive message that drives Surprise. We need to focus on economic development. Only 2 applicants mentioned that we need a convention center, all the others said we have everything we need, and we need to be consistent.

Council Member Longabaugh – Every applicant said the word "Branding".

Council Member Alton – Didn't we hire a branding company? Randy Oliver – Yes about 4 weeks ago, have not met with them yet.

Mayor Truitt – Mark and I talked to the balloon person, would take \$150,000. To buy a balloon with the City Logo. I would only want one if we could get one that is wheelchair accessible. We would have the only one.

City Manager Oliver – If Council comes forward with an event, how do you want the decisions made? One event per year.

Council Member Alton – if it costs the City money, then it should come before Council.

CRS Director, Mark Coronado explained the Temporary Use Permit process for organizations that want to hold a special event. This way the City will have control of what types of events take place.

Peggy Fiandaca – It seems that there are a couple of different views on this subject, there is also discussion on direction to staff. What happens during the year, is it the TUP process? Should there be a process in place before you make decisions?

Oliver commented that we will bring this item to Council in form of a policy.

- Fire Operations Staffing – Fire chief, Mike White gave a power point presentation relating to Emergency Medical Response.
- Other topics included: Automatic Aid ; Surprise Deployment Model; Factors that drive manpower; explanation of Alpha Trucks and TRV.
- Discussion took place regarding Fire Station Coverage.

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Council Member Alton – Mainly brought this up because residents brought this up to me. Would like for Fire Chief to do a presentation at a Council Meeting so that everyone can hear. The explanation of why this happens.

- Development Impact Fees

City Manager Oliver gave a brief overview of Development Impact Fees. Topics of discussion included "How do Impact Fees work?"

Funding Alternatives – Development Agreements; GO Bond; General Fund; CFD's, Developer to fund the project without reimbursement.

Council Member Alton – What message are we sending to the development community?

City Manager Oliver asked Council if they want to change policy. Consensus was for policy to stay the same.

City Attorney Bailey – Gave an explanation of the history of the development fees.

- Boards & Commissions – Presented by City Manager Oliver. Topic of discussion related to term limits. Do you wish to have term limits or leave the policy the same?

Mayor Truitt – I would like to see it stay the way it is. Some boards are working really well.

City Manager Oliver – Change terms on Transportation Commission.

- Interim Redistricting – City Manager Oliver gave a presentation regarding this topic.

City Manager Oliver – Do you want to proceed with Redistricting or wait for 2010? Wait until 2010 census.

- FY 2009 and 2010 Budget including RIF (Reduction in Force) Policy and Organizational Structure Presented by HR Director, Jim Bowers.

Discussion took place the previous RIF Policy and what changes were recently made.

Vice-Mayor Johnson – The evaluation process was corrected, right? Yes, new evaluations in May 2009. Will you run a new model when the new system is in place?

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Council Member Alton – How long are we going to keep an employee that did not make expectations?
Bowers – Supervisory issue.

Vice-Mayor Johnson – I think that we need to take a closer look at this. The reduction in force is most likely going to continue. Would like to see minimum and maximum ranges – big differences. Would like to make a suggestion, we need to tighten this up.

City Manager Oliver – This topic warrants discussion but there are many pressing issues right now. He agreed that this will be addressed by the time increases are allowed.

Peggy Fiandaca – Thank you for inviting me back. It has been 6 months since our first meeting. I would like to hear how you think you have done, or where do you want to go. We need to shift our thought process for tomorrow. Right now is a good time for companies to step back and reorganize and plan while the economy is changing so drastically.

Mayor Truitt – We have done fabulous! Many meeting taking place, we have all worked hard to understand the issues of the community. I am feeling really positive as a group and a team. We respect staff and are listening to their presentations.

Council Member Hall – There is an underlying respect for each other. We disagree but we show respect even when we disagree. If we lose, we don't carry it around.

Vice-Mayor Johnson – At first I had a hard time adjusting but I do not get treated that way. We move on after a vote.

Council Member Villanueva – The public is seeing positive feedback.

Council Member Longabaugh – The Council's reputation was that they were a laughing stock. This image has changed over the years, and the public feels that we listen.

Peggy Fiandaca – What would you like to improve upon? How can you improve relationships?

Council Member Alton – Greater communication with ourselves and our constituents. They can get a hold of us by phone or e-mail but personal contact is the best. We as Council need to spend a great amount of time out in the communities.

Vice-Mayor Johnson – Improve relationship with School District. Better communication.

Council Member Alton – Need to take the Chamber of Commerce as our partners and update them and listen to our residents. All of Council needs to be more proactive.

Vice-Mayor Johnson – Never received better communication since Oliver came on board. We are all informed.

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Peggy Fiandaca – Think about the Strategic Plan and what you want to accomplish. What does a strategic plan mean to you and what do you want from this.

The Town of Marana plan was reviewed by the consultant.

Mayor Truitt – Concerned about creating a large plan that might conflict with our general plan. Keep it simple.

Council Member Hall – Strategic plan should be somewhat inspiring.

Council Member Alton – Should be relative and revisited on an ongoing basis.

Vice-Mayor Johnson – Needs to be focused. Not 900 items that we can't complete.

Council Member Williams – Needs to be measurable.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Truitt adjourned the Special City Council Meeting of Friday, February 20, 2009, at 7:49 p.m.



Mayor Lyn Truitt

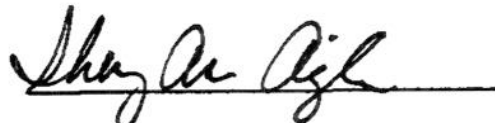
ATTEST:



Sherry Ann Aguilar, City Clerk, MMC

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 Friday, February 20, 2009.



Sherry Ann Aguilar, City Clerk, MMC