



CITY OF SURPRISE
City Council Work Session Minutes
100 North Civic Center Plaza
Surprise, AZ 85374

Tuesday, April 24, 2012 @ 04:00 PM

A. Call To Order

B. Roll Call

Mayor Wolcott called the **Regular City Council Work Session** to order at 04:00 p.m. Surprise City Hall Council Chamber 16000 North Civic Center Plaza Surprise, Arizona 85374 , on **Tuesday, April 24, 2012**. Also in attendance with Mayor Wolcott were Vice Mayor Williams, Council Member Biundo, Council Member Alton, Council Member Woodard, and Council Member Hall.

Staff Present: City Manager, Chris Hillman, City Attorney, Michael Bailey, and City Clerk, Sherry Ann Aguilar.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Regular City Council Work Session Agenda:

#1. Presentation and discussion regarding the Solid Waste Multi-Year Financial Plan.

Chief Financial Officer, Scott McCarty gave a powerpoint presentation regarding the Solid Waste Multi-Year Financial Plan.

Mayor Wolcott inquired about the vehicle replacement program.

Council Member Woodard inquired about the expense fuel line item.

Council Member Hall inquired about fees.

Mayor Wolcott inquired about the landfill amount of \$700,000.

Council Member Alton stated that this is an ideal self sufficient program.

Council Member Woodard stated that he agrees with Council Member Alton and that it's a good idea to set up a 2 month operating reserve.

Council Member Hall stated that his residents tell him that they love the service, but that he thinks it is worth the exercise to see where we are at and assuming it is the most economical.

Council Member Biundo stated that the analysis is really important and that we need to look at the overall context of the budget process.

Council Member Alton stated that he would like to see us move over to natural gas, grant opportunities.

Public Works Director Robert Beckley stated that we are doing research on this and will bring to Council.

Mayor Wolcott inquired about the percentage of the cash balance is part of the sinking fund for conversion to natural gas vehicles,

Council Member Woodard commented on billboard ads.

#2. Presentation and discussion regarding issues related to pursuing the privatization of the City's solid waste services - NO ACTION

CFO McCarty gave a powerpoint presentation regarding privatizing solid waste services. He stated that this is just an initial discussion as previously mentioned by Council and that there are no recommendations being made right now.

Council Member Alton stated that we need to look completely across the board at privatization for all services in the city so that we know how well we are doing in all areas.

Mayor Wolcott stated that we need to evaluate our services to prepare when growth picks up again in the future.

Mayor Wolcott commented on thinking about having their own landfill as the city grows.

Council Member Alton commented on messing with something that is not broken, I think we are on the right track analyzing.

Vice Mayor Williams commented on: being skeptical of having this discussion; cities that have privatized have higher rates and he's not in favor of this at this time but in favor of looking at all areas of the City.

Council Member Hall stated that he agrees with looking at all areas, but not in favor of trying to fix something that is not broken.

City Manager Hillman stated that staff will move forward and create a process to evaluate all areas of the City and bring back for discussion.

Council Member Woodard stated that he is interested in evaluating that he does not want to do something that could be regretted later.

Public Comments:

Cesar Cuevas commented that he lives in District 3; the city's sanitation service was rated number 3 in the nation; and is active in our community.

Tom Tickenoff stated that they are doing an incredibly good job in customer service, that our

containers have never been missed in 9 years and that the employees have vested interest in the city.

Ted Carr stated that he lived in cities where everything was contracted out, including police, fire, public works and that there is money to be saved by doing this.

Ken Wright commented on: this review is a good idea and it should have been done; we have a great delivery of service at a low cost for residents; the 7 year life cycle of the trucks is very good, the employees are not abusing the vehicles and that we need more research done on the enterprise funds.

#3. Proposed FY 2013 Budget Calendar-Review of the City Manager's Budget - NO ACTION

Chief Financial Officer McCarty gave an overview of the FY2013 Budget Calendar.

Council Member Alton inquired about giving Council year to date.

City Manger Hillman stated that staff will be ready and available to go over line item by line item and answer questions.

Council Member Alton stated that he would like to see a 2 day retreat on the budget process and have each Director give a presentation on their budget and justify their line item expenditures.

Mayor commented on the line item budget to present to Council with notes; possibly doing a longer session than the Tuesday evening review.

Council Member Hall commented on: 5 weeks to review the City Manager's Budget; prefers questions on a one on one basis and go through the City Manager for answers.

Council Member Biundo stated that he would like an extended session where we can have a detailed discussion on the budget process.

Council Member Alton stated that the Directors need to give their presentation.

Council Member Hall addressed Council Member Alton: you may have respect for the City Manager's integrity, but your actions say different. You don't trust his judgment.

Vice Mayor Williams suggested looking at extending the May 29th date to answer last minute questions.

City Manager Hillman stated that we started the budget process sooner than usual, but every line item was visited with Directors and myself.

Public comments:

Tom Tickenoff stated that he thinks that Council Member Alton is looking for accountability.

E. Call To The Public:

F. Adjournment:

Mayor Wolcott adjourned the Regular City Council Work Session of April 24, 2012 at 6:20 p.m.

Sharon R. Wolcott, 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 Regular City Council Work Session of **Tuesday, April 24, 2012.**

Sherry Ann Aguilar, City Clerk,