

Council/Planning & Zoning Commission Joint Work Session – February 3, 2015

Call To order:

Mayor Wolcott called the Council/Planning & Zoning Commission Joint Work Session to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Community Room located at the Surprise City Hall – 16000 N. Civic Center Plaza, Surprise, Arizona 85374.

Roll Call: Also in attendance with Mayor Wolcott were Vice-Mayor, John Williams; Councilmembers Roland Winters, Jim Biundo, Skip Hall, Rachel Villanueva and Todd Tande. Planning & Zoning Chair, Steve Somers; Vice-Chair, Ken Chapman; Board Members Dennis Smith; Peter Pervi; Jerry Hoyler and Matthew Keating. Board Member, Matthew Bieniek was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Regular City Council Work Session Agenda:

1. Presentation and discussion updating City Council and Planning & Zoning Commission on the development of the City initiated Major General Plan Amendment – General Plan Elements Update. – NO ACTION

CD Director, Eric Fitzer conducted a powerpoint presentation covering the Major General Plan Amendment – General Elements Update.

Topics included: Why are we doing this?

Clarified the different elements including: Parks and Recreation; Arts Master Plan and OTS are part of this amendment.

Council Comments/Questions:

Mayor Wolcott – Where are we (Surprise) at compared to other cities/towns of open space?

Councilmember Tande –pointed out Under Construction Category

Commission Hoyler – Types of uses throughout the plan – Fiscal Analysis

Core Demographics – fundamental data for Surprise

Existing Conditions – Population growth and projections; median age – Significant rise in family communities in the last decade.

Councilmember Hall – 26.8 are employed and live in Surprise, and 91% leave the City. This is a big variance, is this correct?

Vice-Chair Chapman – Retirees, are they considered unemployed if they live here and receive retirement? This would not include retired individuals.

Commissioner Hoyler – What are the percentages compared to other cities of our size? Mayor Wolcott commented that The West Valley has similar demographics such as Goodyear and Peoria have the same issues as Surprise.

Mayor Wolcott – When government is the biggest employer, that's an issue.

Councilmember Tande – point out that using the numbers, they look like good trend numbers. It's my intent to become a lot more like Chandler, we still need to factor out the retirees. Composite rate, retirees out, will give us a clearer picture of how many jobs per household.

Jobs to housing balance – ratio of jobs to number of houses in the community. to individual subdivisions. Need to ask different questions to outer lying rural areas.

Commissioner Smith – Would like to see a task force established.

Mayor Wolcott commented that she appreciates the use of data for this project and we have access to MAG data which is helpful.

Chair Somers – Attracting businesses should be our first priority.

- **Item # 2 – Public Arts Master Plan – Long Range Planner, Jackie Keller gave a powerpoint presentation overview – NO ACTION**

Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission identified 3 goals. Currently have 14 pieces of City owned.

Councilmember Hall – Concerned about conceptual development. Don't rely on just a public meeting. Lots of artists in the community, need to go out and find them.

Long Range Planner, Jackie Keller reviewed stats on surveys and community/stakeholder input.

Questions/Comments:

Councilmember Biundo questioned the 1% designated for Arts reflected in this for Arts? Above ground programs? Asked whether this ever exist in a policy?

Mayor Wolcott commented that many have asked "What is our sense of culture and art". The executives want to be a part of the local culture, to be a part of and to help grow it.

City Manager, Bob Wingenroth discussed Capital improvement programming, if Council wants, can come back with a policy decision.

Councilmember Hall commented that the survey distributed to the public wears me out, can we simplify this?

Councilmember Tande asked if we have measurable action plans.

Councilmember Biundo commented that he was on the Arts Commission at the time the 1% was active. Several pieces were purchased by this fund. Another option for funding, incorporating some sort of art requirement in development agreements, and would like to explore this also.

Councilmember Tande commented about a City in California did this successfully through development agreements.

Councilmember Villanueva asked for examples of art to show residents of what we are looking for.

Commissioner Hoyler added that the OTS has a lot of history for a different type of art for different sections of the City. He suggested looking for business support and private sector. It's a joint venture to come together to create this vision.

- **Item # 3 - Development of a Heritage Overlay District in OTS – Keller explained the definition of an overlay – NO ACTION**

Long Range Planner, Jackie Keller commented that Small businesses, mom and pop shops came up quite a bit during general plan process for the OTS area including Mercado, pathways, and activity centers. Create a gateway and destination. Develop specific rules and guidelines.

Reviewed next steps for overlay and continue community outreach.

Councilmember Hall said that comments from residents in OTS are more concrete, we can do something about this. We can really affect the quality of life by this great input and integrate into our plan.

Councilmember Winters commented that he attended the OTS meeting, was very informative, the residents brought up some good issues.

Mayor Wolcott commented that there was very good feedback from the OTS meeting, the City is well designed, but if it's locked up, that's an issue. All of the open land in OTS screams opportunity. The residents in the OTS love their neighborhood, they enjoy living in their front yards and visiting with their neighbors.

Councilmember Hall commented that we need to take advantage of the Tech-celerator that is located in OTS.

Councilmember Biundo – Do we know if there is any specific location project building that would qualify for the National Historic Preservation?

Councilmember Villanueva – Talked with residents of OTS and water issues, the bill is unbelievable.

City Manager, Bob Wingenroth – Recognized the Community Development Team and especially Jackie Keller, representing a large team, professionalism, passion and hard work.

Call to the public – Bob Vukanovich commented that he has issues with the minutes from January 20, 2015 Work Session and said that they do not reflect what was actually stated. Mr. Vukanovich read a statement for the record: “My issue tonight is on transparency and the basic rights of the citizens of Surprise to address the Council on any concerns that they may have. Both of these are lost when the minutes do not reflect, what was said to the Council, as what happened to me at the workshop on the 20th of January, 2015. The City said that because there were 4 agenda items that were slated to go into executive session we would not be allowed to bring them up for discussion. I told the Council “in call to the public” that other than the consent items we were entitled to talk on all agenda items. Other than saying that I was confused there was not one word that I said in the minutes. The Mayor opened one of the 4 agenda items for discussion (#3) on which I spoke on, there is no mention of this in the minutes. He then asked if he could place his comments in its entirety for the record”.

Mayor Wolcott made a motion to adjourn the Special Joint Work Session at 6:01 PM.

Adjournment :

Mayor Wolcott made a motion to adjourn the Special Joint Work Session at 6:01 PM.

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, February 3, 2015.**

Sherry Ann Aguilar, City Clerk

*In the record
2-3-2015
Work Session*

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I told the council, "in the call to the public" that other then the consent items we were entitled to talk on all agenda items.

Other then saying that I was confused there was not one word that I said in the minutes.

The mayor opened one of the 4 agenda items for discussion (# 3) on which I spoke on, there is no mention of this in the minutes.

May I place my comments in it's entirety in the records?


Bob Vukanovich

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