



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

Tuesday, December 15, 2015 @ 04:03 PM

Call to Order

Roll Call

Mayor Wolcott called the **Regular City Council Work Session** to order at 04:03 p.m. Surprise City Hall Council Chamber 16000 North Civic Center Plaza Surprise, Arizona 85374 , on **Tuesday, December 15, 2015**. Also in attendance with Mayor Wolcott were Vice Mayor Williams, Council Member Winters, Council Member Biundo, Council Member Villanueva, Council Member Hall, and Council Member Tande.

Staff Present: City Clerk, Sherry Ann Aguilar, City Manager, Bob Wingenroth, and City Attorney, Robert Wingo.

Pledge of Allegiance

Regular Agenda Item - Non-Public Hearing

1 - Discussion regarding potential sponsorship and name change of the Pops Band - NO ACTION

City Manager Wingenroth conducted a presentation regarding the West Valley Pops Band, proposing name change to the Surprise Pops Band. Several concerts at Valley Vista High School throughout the year collection of food donations. Come back with a sponsorship agreement at the end of January 2016.

Council Member Villanueva said it's an excellent idea and would like to move forward with this.

Council Member Winters - Agreed with this, has attended several of their concerts.

Council Member Tande - Great idea, Nick Bacon Memorial Ceremony and dedication.

Mayor Wolcott - I believe you have consensus.

2 - Additional discussion on Open Space character area and Wildlife Linkages Corridor sub area with the Major Amendment to the General Plan 2035 and associated Resolution # 2015-120 re-writing the land use element; changing from a village planning to a character area planning concept; updating all other elements of the General Plan 2035 to conform; modifying the reporting and amendment

processes in the implementation section; and repealing the existing village plans -
NO ACTION

Community Development Director, Eric Fitzer introduced the item for discussion. The amendments/changes are being presented to the City Council for consideration at the regular council meeting.

City Planner, Joshua Mike continued the discussion focusing on proposed amendments/changes.

Topics included: Open Space Discussions - Land Use Element, wildlife linkages map

Council Member Hall - asked what is it we are wanting to do with this document and the changes being proposed? Unique environment for economically viable. We need to consider this or it will never get developed. We need to keep this in mind.

Council Member Tande - I do like the concept of this, as a realtor we are required to disclose a map of Luke Air space. I do think that this type of disclosure is very important. I am leaning towards disclosing what our aspirations are for this area, it doesn't mean that they can't develop their property. If you don't, then you could be fighting every proposal that comes through the City.

Public Comments:

Jeff Blilie - We had a spirited discussion at the Planning & Zoning Meeting and looked at the property owners concerns, and what they recommended to you is a good recommendation. All 7 were in favor of removing the Wildlife Corridor from the map. Not having green lines on the map doesn't mean you are not going to have open space. Open space lines are not necessary on the map, the owners know where the open spaces are located. From the wildlife corridor standpoint, what is your goal? I don't know who is going to be investing in Surprise because you have a wildlife corridor. If you are concerned, you should purchase these designated areas. In order for wildlife to go across Sun Valley Parkway, you would have to create underpasses for the wildlife to cross. Frankly, if you want to move forward with this, would like to see you come forward with a complete package next couple of years.

Mike Schwab - Presented to the Planning & Zoning Commission asked where did the wildlife corridor linkage come from, it was from a study from 2008. They tagged 9 mule deer. Read specific sections of the study to the Council. Staff really viewed this at 10,000, little or no consideration on how this fell into existing conditions on the ground. Wildlife Linkage corridor, 8 elements in SPA 3.

David Warnikli - Arizona Game and Fish Department for Surprise and Buckeye gave an overview of wildlife preservation in the White Tank Mountain range.

Bjorn Bondo, Ford Motor Company - Read a letter from the City of Surprise.

Council Member Tande - This plan doesn't affect current zoning of this area, correct?

Mr. Fitzer - It does not, they would be able to develop one unit to an acre.

Council Member Tande - 1,167 acres in contention, is that about right? 41,348 acres in the new plan designated as open space.

Mike Schwab - 70 landowners with over 1,600 acres within the wildlife corridor designated area.

Council Member Winters - Seems to be some difference of much wildlife is in this area? Can't get over the canal, Sun Valley Parkway.

Dana Warniki - Approximately 155 - 191 mule deer within the White Tanks, need approximately 3 years of data and the numbers are declining. 1 mountain lion, Javelina population is doing well. We don't survey White Tanks on a regular basis, very rugged terrain. CAP washes are concrete and are adequate for wildlife to cross over the canal.

Council Member Tande - Orange County, the property values in those designated areas have done better in property values and quality of life. Without having this notification out there, we will have issues.

Mayor Wolcott - Most of my adult life, lived on the fringe of urban areas, this is not new to me. Those who want to preserve open space, and those who want to build a rooftop. I like what staff has recommended, telling the story of what we want to be when we grow up. These corridors can create a higher yield for the property owners. More diverse and compact development is what we want. Spelling out the vision is very important so there is no confusion. We are invested for good. I do have some concerns that I would like clarified on how the Ford Proving Grounds is on board.

Council Member Biundo - We have spent considerable time to address the question of what do we want to be when we grow up. We are on the cusp on making those decisions to meet that definition.

Council Member Hall - Residents committee for the General Plan, 18 members spent a lot of time on this. I recommend that we go back out and ask this committee to be reinstated. This Committee spent a lot of time analyzing this, I am uncomfortable with this. We have some very nice residential communities in this City. There is a thing called economics that needs to balance what we are doing and we need to be careful.

Council Member Tande - The difference were those is that they were built on farms, flat land, these neighborhoods will be nice for a long time. Past the McMicken Dam is a different photography, and will need to deal with this differently. It would be a shame if we missed the boat and tie our hands. I really like the work that staff has done on this project.

Executive Session

Adjournment

Council Member Winters made the motion to adjourn the Regular City Council Work Session of December 15, 2015 at 5:36 PM. Council Member Tande seconded the motion. Seven yes votes. Motion carried.

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, December 15, 2015.**

Sherry Ann Aguilar, City Clerk,