



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

Saturday, December 19, 2015 @ 09:08 AM

Call to Order

Roll Call

Mayor Wolcott called the **Special City Council Meeting** to order at 09:08 a.m. Surprise City Hall Council Chamber 16000 North Civic Center Plaza Surprise, Arizona 85374 , on **Saturday, December 19, 2015**. Also in attendance with Mayor Wolcott were Council Member Winters, Council Member Biundo, Council Member Villanueva, Council Member Hall, and Council Member Tande.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

City Manager Report

City Attorney Report

City Attorney Wingo made an announcement that we received a written response from Vice-Mayor Williams; he sent a written statement for the record since he is not physically present. City Attorney Wingo referred to the City Code relating to no participation telephonically or in written form when they are absent.

Mayor Wolcott: The provision was written to address an issue of existing councilmember voting on issues from out of state.

Council Member Villanueva - I remember all of that happening, if you were not present, then you were not allowed to vote. The Clerk has had to read letters from the public and this was allowed.

Council Member Tande - Is there issue with the document being distributed after the meeting has already started? I am leaning towards being able to hand out a statement for the record during public comments.

Council Member Winters - Disappointed that Vice Mayor Williams is not here, we made a decision during the last Council meeting to determine this date for the Special Meeting. I myself am not in favor of allowing this item to be read into the record.

Council Member Biundo - I understand Council Member Winters point, I don't think we want to be in

the position of having something read for a Councilmember and not as a citizen. The other clarification, it doesn't represent the vote, simply a position being read into the record.

Council Member Hall - Very empathetic on Vice Mayor Williams time and demands. I am not comfortable with this letter being read in public at this time.

Mayor Wolcott - I am with you Council Member Biundo, it could be misinterpreted, if we didn't have this ordinance in place, we could have 3 people call in their votes. I appreciate Vice Mayor Williams efforts, but I think we should not read into the record.

City Clerk Report

Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda Item - Public Hearing

Regular Agenda Item - Non-Public Hearing

1 - Consideration and action on a major amendment to the Surprise General Plan 2035, 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; Resolution # 2015-120 - APPROVED OPTION C

City Planner, Joshua Mike gave a powerpoint presentation and overview of a major amendment to the Surprise General Plan 2035, 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; Resolution # 2015-120.

Mayor Wolcott thanked everyone for coming in on a Saturday right before Christmas for this very important item. We know that many General Plans go to the voters every so many years. My question is, is it common that City's would make major amendments after a plan has been approved by the public?

Joshua Mike, yes it is common depending on growth, etc., and is allowed by State Statute one time per year for amendments.

Mayor Wolcott - Big steps taken between West Valley Leadership, Luke Air Force Base, etc., Huge win for the west valley, and Luke leaders saying they will take out encroachment.

Council Member Winters - Are you now saying that Wildlife Corridor is not going to be on the map now?

Joshua Mike - Wildlife Conservation will be retained in the formal design regulations.

Community Development Director, Eric Fitzer - Open space has stayed on the map, wildlife would still be attained but less impact to the property owners.

Council Member Winters - Doesn't this still give uncertainty to the property owners/developers?

Mr. Fitzer - Less impact for property owners.

Council Member Hall - Redlined version of land use element, is there a way to show on the screen? He questioned the following: Page 31, open space designation. Public lands intended, good language; under ARS, maximum of one dwelling unit per acre; Page 38, under state lands, letter from State Department, the boundaries identified on page 10; Page 41, you added wildlife linkage corridors, adopted 2011-68 to create wildlife linkages map, primarily coincides with existing natural trails and washes. He referred to specific areas of the report.

Public Comments:

Bjorn Bondo - Ford Proving Grounds, Sent a letter yesterday to staff supporting the approval of this plan.

Leo Makiewicz - Didn't we just go through this in 2012, my bottom line is that I am in favor of this amendment with a couple of concerns. Design Guidelines need to be done, we had a vocal minority objecting to the plan at the time. I served on the Formed Base Code Committee when I was on the City Council, brought in experts, it's a formal document prepared by professionals. Taking out the Village Planning from this document, it would be nice to take action on this so that people stay involved. Our Planning Commission we must all stay engaged, a lot of good tools have been given to us with this plan.

Jeff Blilie - Thanked Council and Planning & Zoning Commission as well as staff for all their hard work and with recommendation "C", is a good plan that we can all work with. On behalf of all the property owners we represent, we support your approval of option "C".

Mitch Rosenbaum - Served on the General Plan Committee and was pleased with the outcome of the plan, the Village Plan was a new concept, a way of getting put from the citizenry, and that was my main concern. I would like to see the General Plan Committee be active to offer a mechanism in the plan and encourage residents to be involved in the process.

Mayor Wolcott - Thanked Mr. Rosenbaum and Mr. Mankiewicz for being a part of the General Plan Committee and their input. Also thanked the Planning & Zoning Commission for all of your hard work and listening to public participation. I understand your desire for input, I think it is included in the language of this document. If staff feels a need to improve on public participation, they will keep us informed so that we can make this happen.

Council Member Winters - I too echo our sentiments to staff and planning & Zoning commission for their efforts on the proposed changes. But my concern still is in the open space area and wildlife corridor area. I would not like to see this diminish in the future so I am counting on our planning staff to make sure this area is preserved.

Council Member Biundo - I do want to tag onto what Mr. Rosenbaum said earlier to re-engage the General Plan Committee, going forward there will be ongoing discussion on changes being proposed, future amendments, I would like to see a formal way to engage the original committee as an Ad Hoc Committee to work with Planning & Zoning Commission.

Council Member Villanueva - Commended staff for their hard work and thanked residents that came forward to speak on this issue. Question, a lot of residents commented that they have owned their

property for many years, are you going to develop it, keep it, sell it?

Council Member Tande - Question on timeline for wildlife corridor? Next year sometime, bringing forward with SDC, etc., at the same time period. Village concept, I think it is very important that we have an overall look, and include citizen input. Appreciate the P&Z Commission giving us a recommendation as a compromise. There is a lot more stuff in this plan, changing our vision of the City for employment, most critical, still need to have jobs here instead of driving east.

Council Member Hall made the motion to approve Resolution 2015-120 - option C. Council Member Tande seconded the motion. Six yes votes. Motion carried.

Other Business

Executive Session

Adjournment

Mayor Wolcott adjourned the Special City Council Meeting of December 19, 2015 at 10:05 AM.

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 Special City Council Meeting of **Saturday, December 19, 2015.**

Sherry Ann Aguilar, City Clerk,