



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

Tuesday, April 5, 2016 @ 04:00 PM

Call to Order

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 5, 2016**. Also in attendance with Mayor Wolcott were Vice Mayor Biundo, Council Member Winters, Council Member Williams, 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

Call to the public

Jeff Stone - Pickleball proposal, reviewed a handout to the Council. Letter from a vendor; pickleball tournament factual sheet; and showed Council the pickleball paddle and ball. Read a statement for the record.

Vukanovich Statement (Work Session)

Regular Agenda Item - Non-Public Hearing

1 - Presentation and discussion pertaining to the Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan 2016-17 - NO ACTION

Neighborhood Services Manager, Christina Ramirez gave a powerpoint presentation regarding the Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan 2016-17.

Council Member Hall - Questioned funds rolling over, this should not be happening.

Mayor Wolcott - commented on the projects page of presentation. The administrative costs are high, and more than the public services projections, especially when the majority of the amount is bricks and mortar.

Council Member Winters - Disabled, income qualified?

Ms. Ramirez - Yes

Council Member Hall - Questioned the amount of Surprise residents using the program? He also questioned the administrative costs, taxpayer's money so we need to justify.

Council Member Villanueva - Good reports from neighbors that are having their homes rehab, staff was wonderful and courteous.

2 - Presentation and discussion updating City Council on the development of a Signature Gateway Program for the City of Surprise - NO ACTION

Edith Baltierrez conducted a powerpoint presentation regarding the Signature Gateway Program for the City.

Susan deJong, Arts Commission Chair commented that the Commission really likes the 2nd version we received.

Vice Mayor Biundo - questioned the layout of the design, especially the sharp edges, and sun rays, may be an issue as well as using the exact same purple color code as our logo if we use purple.

Council Member Williams - Good job, I love the sign and the base. Pending approval of the concept, we will discuss financial aspects of this.

Council Member Winters - I like the concept, as far as a sign for the far west valley, it should be farther out.

Council Member Villanueva - The monument looks great, maybe a little grass around it would be classier than agave.

Council Member Tande - Staff presented this to me this week, I like what was done, the sharp edges can be taken care of during construction, I like the theme and layout. I like the backlighting, need to factor in the dark skies, LED lighting preferable.

Council Member Hall - I really like it, there are little things that I would like the Arts Commission to tweak on it. I agree with staying consistent with all other City logos, font, etc., that we are currently using.

Vice Mayor Biundo - Overall, I really appreciate the efforts of the Arts Commission on this project. It seems cleaner to me.

Mayor Wolcott - Personally I love the Surprise brand, and would like to enhance our existing brand. My first impression when I came to Surprise was the sunset behind the white tanks. The Agave on the bridge, use as a theme, and sustainability for landscaping purposes. Personally, would like to update the fonts, seems too western style. I wouldn't want it to be too busy, too many panels, etc., takes away from the piece itself.

3 - Presentation and discussion pertaining to review of capital projects and potential capital financing - NO ACTION

Finance Director, Lindsey Duncan introduced Budget Manager, Jared Askelson to conduct the

powerpoint presentation to review capital projects and potential capital financing.

City Manager Wingenroth brought forward information on a General Obligation Bond, total capacity \$241.5 million dollars. Staff recommends bond amount of \$60 million dollars, bond term of 20 years, timing of issuance to allow for completion of projects; absorption of operating costs, etc. Property tax rate comparisons were discussed with other valley cities.

Reviewed election timelines and Council meeting dates.

Council Feedback/Direction:

Council Member Williams - I am in favor of moving forward with the question to the public. Last year, there was a competing interest, the school bond. We had a committee that vetted this already, when we decided to not move forward, we thanked them, but we need to honor the work put into this process. I moved here in 2000 and couldn't believe the prices of homes back then. We have amazing facilities but we have gaps throughout the community especially with pavement preservation, facilities, etc. We need to go out to the community. There are so many things that we do not have and we have to go to other communities for these types amenities. We need to look at how we are going to invest in our community. I am an advocate for moving forward with one bond question, not ala carte and engage public participation.

Council Member Hall - I want to thank the Bond Exploratory Committee for all the work they did, this year is the time, but we need to present specifics to our residents. I would like to see a map with a layout of where the projects will take place that we can show our residents. I have questions on the operational costs. The ballot language needs to be very specific. We are behind on parks, we need to add capacity.

Vice Mayor Biundo - Council Member Williams made some compelling statements and are appreciated. For the record, I was opposed to the bond issue last year for several reasons. My concern is that we are edging into that same platform again, I am opposed to identifying everything as a need without some sort of distinction of what is critical, what is a have, etc., this did not occur. Do we know at this point, what are the funded projects going to be? Do we have the staff to handle the additional projects? Holding public hearings during the time when a major portion of our residents are gone during the summer. Putting another tax before the public at the same time talking about a stormwater rate, food tax and now a bond issue. We need to apply the same standards, background, objective analysis, policy complaint, budget compliant, FTE impact, let's put the whole message out there and then go from there.

Council Member Villanueva - By the time we get a bond going, a lot of these current projects will be completed. I think that we need the bond, I have been here forever myself, I think we need it. We need to move forward with this.

Council Member Tande - When I am looking at this, we have a zero general obligation debt currently and that's a good spot to be in. We don't have a capacity to raise funding, so I am hopeful we are able to have the highest rating items for the bond. Children asked questions through the Reading Program, when are we going to get things to do here in our City. I am concerned about waiting too long, this will be a long process with vetting, bidding projects, etc., Arizona State Law requires that the citizens approve this. This will bring value to our City. I don't want to stand in the way of the citizen's right to vote.

Council Member Winters - I personally could support this bond if we are very transparent with our

residents and it is their decision.

Mayor Wolcott - Impact fees, we are in a different place with impact fees, there are some communities that are eliminating and reducing these fees. I do think that one of the ways we talked about last year was pavement preservation as a want, it is a need and what the City needs to provide and should not be put out to the voters, should be our responsibility. Families came here for something amazing, and we are amazing, but we are behind. When we talk about tourism, what can we do to get people to come and stay here, if there were a lot of things to do, we could keep them coming here for other than baseball. I appreciate the previous bond committee and what they put forward to the Council last year.

Council Member Hall - Good point about the pavement preservation, interesting thought and I am not sure, it has an interesting effect on residents depending on the neighborhoods. There is a fund called HURF, I think it was swept for 3 years by the state legislature, and it was a lot of money, so we are trying to play catch up.

We have a component of people that are winter residents, a third don't pay property tax, they rent. Referring to the two thirds, how about we do a presentation to the winter visitors when they come back in October when we have the pamphlet? The other thing is the road timing, Bell Grand will be all done, that's not really going to affect new projects in the future. Golf courses, the percentage of golfers is very low, but they love their golf courses because they are beautiful and it adds value to their homes. If you buy in Surprise, what does that get you? We need an indoor facility for kids, we need help from our voters to do some of this infrastructure for our residents.

Council Member Villanueva - Suggestion, maybe we could ask the same committee members to serve again.

Mayor Wolcott - I think their work is done, we need to take their product they did last year and take it out to the public.

Mr. Wingenroth - we could certainly involve the committee members who did all of the work.

Vice Mayor Biundo - I tend to agree with the Mayor regarding pavement preservation should not be a bond issue, it should be operational. We talk about going out to the public, go out with the whole information including FTE expenses and how are we going to pay for these. Lastly, the voters are going to have a final say when the maximum number of voters are here to vote on the issue.

Executive Session

Adjournment

Council Member Tande made the motion to adjourn the Regular City Council Work Session of April 5, 2016 at 5:55 PM. Council Member Villanueva seconded the motion. Seven yes votes. Motion carried.

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 5, 2016.**

Sherry Ann Aguilar, City Clerk,