

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS . 11465 WEST CIVIC CENTER DRIVE . AVONDALE, AZ 85323

WORK SESSION
November 16, 2009
6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR ROGERS

1 ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK

2 PROPOSED 2010 STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The City's proposed 2010 state and federal legislative agenda will be presented to Council. Staff is seeking discussion and direction for the upcoming legislative session.

3 ADJOURNMENT

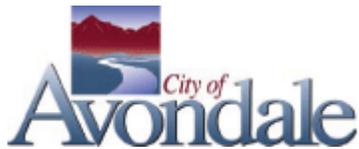
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carmen Martinez".

Carmen Martinez
City Clerk

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CITY COUNCIL REPORT

SUBJECT:
Proposed 2010 State and Federal Legislative
Agenda

MEETING DATE:
November 16, 2009

TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Shirley Gunther, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager (623)333-1612
THROUGH: Charlie McClendon, City Manager

PURPOSE:

Staff is requesting that the City Council review and provide guidance to the Intergovernmental Affairs Manager on the proposed 2010 state and federal legislative agenda. The agenda will define the City's state and federal legislative priorities and guide the City's lobbying activities in 2010.

BACKGROUND:

This report describes the City's proposed state legislative agenda for the Second Regular Session of the 49th Arizona State Legislature and the federal legislative agenda for the Second Session of 111th United States Congress. The Arizona State Legislature will commence on Monday, January 11, 2010. Congress will begin January 6, 2010.

Legislation enacted at both the federal and state level can have significant effects on the ability of municipal government to serve its citizens. Therefore, it is important to identify the City of Avondale's Legislative priorities regarding potential or pending legislative actions. Prior to each legislative session, the Intergovernmental Affairs Manager seeks Council's input and direction regarding the City's federal and state legislative agenda.

The Governmental Affairs Manager will appear before the Avondale City Council on a regular basis throughout the session to provide updates and seek additional direction as bills are introduced and debated.

DISCUSSION:

Guiding Principles

In order to prioritize and guide staff's lobbying efforts, staff recommends that the Council endorse the following two key guiding principles as the highest priorities:

1. Maintain and Enhance Fiscal Sustainability -The City's budget includes revenues from a number of state sources, most importantly "shared revenues" from state income, sales and vehicle license taxes. Shared revenues make up thirty-eight percent of the City's General Fund, helping to pay for police, fire, streets, parks, and other critical City services. Staff recommends that the City oppose any reduction or negative revisions to the shared revenue components. As the state works to balance their deficit or cut taxes, attempts may be made to shift costs to cities in the way of new unfunded mandates.

Staff recommends approval to oppose any unfunded mandates or reductions in shared revenues. Also important, staff recommends that the City work to maintain other state revenue sources such as highway user revenue (HURF), local transportation assistance (LTAF), and other funds such as federal or other grants passed through the State to the City.

2. Protect local authority - Like other municipalities, Avondale has unique needs and characteristics and those needs are best met by policies set by its local governing body. Statewide preemptive efforts to remove the ability to set policy at the local level should be opposed. Staff recommends supporting efforts to ensure continuing local decision making authority and to prohibit preemption.

AVONDALE'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

In addition to the guiding principles described above, staff recommends the review and consideration of additional issues to include in its agenda for 2010. These issues have been identified to respond to the specific needs of the community.

Motion Picture Tax Credit - In 2005, the legislature authorized the film and motion picture production tax incentives as a means to promote production of commercial motion pictures in the state. The law includes a sunset provision eliminating the tax incentives in 2010. Economic development and media stakeholders will pursue legislation that extends the 2010 sunset on the current tax incentives program, as well as minor changes to streamline the application process. Avondale has an opportunity to be home to Arizona's first film studio wherein major motion pictures, video game production, television series, music videos and commercials will be made. Staff requests approval to amend current laws to ensure that the motion picture tax credit remains a tool for Arizona businesses to locate their businesses here and create a diversified employment base.

Transit

UZA Extension - Federal law allows urbanized area formula grants to be spent on operating expenses only in urbanized areas with less than 200,000 population, but Section 3009(c)(2) of SAFETEA-LU provided for a transition period for urbanized areas that cross the 200,000 threshold. Staff recommends seeking federal approval of a provision in the new reauthorization bill extending funding for Avondale's Urbanized Arizona for a minimum of 2 years to fill the gap caused by the downturn and losses in Proposition 400 funding.

Federal Transit Reauthorization - The Avondale City Center Park and Ride Transit Facility includes a three-story parking structure and will provide 650 parking spaces with operational space on the main level. The Avondale City Center Park and Ride Transit Facility will provide connectivity to the expanded light rail approximately one mile east of Avondale Boulevard. The facility will serve as a regional facility intended to serve west valley bus and rail commuters because of its location at the intersection of Interstate - 10 and Avondale Boulevard, a center point of the Phoenix metropolitan area. The facility requires approximately \$14 million in local or other capital funds. Staff requests that City seek federal funds through the federal Reauthorization process.

Protection of Luke Air Force Base Mission - Established in 1941, Luke Air Force Base and the Barry Goldwater Range has evolved in the decades since to a major economic force in the West Valley region. Avondale is partnering with West Valley cities and County to protect and enhance Luke Air Force Base (AFB) and maintain significant installations. Staff recommends supporting legislation that protects the mission of Luke AFB.

Code Enforcement - Avondale has experienced very high rates of foreclosures and is now a market for rentals. Avondale Code Officers have encountered an escalating trend of hostile property owners and renters. Code staff recommends amending the current law to put some protections in place for Code Officer professionals.

Current statute specifies that aggravated assault exists if the person commits assault knowingly on certain classification of professionals. The list is comprehensive and includes peace officers, constables, fire fighters, teachers, health care professionals etc. Avondale staff recommends

amending the aggravated assault statutes to include Code Officers to the listed victims.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff seeks input and direction from the Council regarding the proposed 2010 state and federal Legislation agenda.

ATTACHMENTS:

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No Attachments Available