

Minutes of the Work Session held February 7, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Lopez Rogers and Council Members

Jim McDonald, Vice Mayor
Jim Buster
Stephanie Karlin
Frank Scott
Charles Vierhout
Ken Weise

ALSO PRESENT

Charlie McClendon, City Manager
David Fitzhugh, Assistant City Manager
Rogene Hill, Assistant City Manager
Christopher Reams, Director of Parks, Recreation and Libraries
Janeen Gaskins, Grants Administrator
Andrew McGuire, City Attorney
Carmen Martinez, City Clerk

1) ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK

2) TRES RIOS UPDATE

An update to the City Council on the Tres Rios Project.

Charlie McClendon, City Manager, introduced Chris Reams, Director of Parks, Recreation and Libraries, who in turn introduced Bob Upham from the City of Phoenix.

Mr. Upham stated that the Tres Rios Project is a partnership between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Phoenix. As the local sponsor, Phoenix represents Tempe, Mesa, Glendale, and Scottsdale as part of SROG (Sub-Regional Operating Group), which owns and operates the 91st Avenue Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Tres Rios Project was split into three phases. Phase I is the flood control levee which runs from 105th Avenue to El Mirage Road and then north to Southern Avenue. Phase II is a pump station and main designed to carry wastewater to the head of the wetlands. Phase III covers the environmental restoration portion to eradicate salt cedar and replant native species. The river will also be re-channeled to focus water back to the center.

Three converging issues created the Tres Rios project: flood control issues, regulatory measures that prevented wastewater from being discharged into the Salt River, and environmental restoration issues. The project has received federal funding since 2003, but no funding is anticipated this year. The request for fiscal year 2012 is \$15 million. Federal stimulus money received in 2009 and 2010 accelerated the project by about five years. The City of Phoenix' cost share portion of 35% covers \$65 million in land costs, \$10 million in utility relocations, and \$5.3 million in direct cash payments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The levee from 105th Avenue to El Mirage Road has been completed. The segment from El Mirage to Southern is in the design stage. The flow-regulating wetlands and over bank wetlands portion of Phase II have been completed. The pump station will be completed in

March of 2012. U.S. Wildlife Services has granted permission to begin clearing vegetation in the next two weeks as part of Phase III. The recreational plan should be finished by summer. Mr. Upham noted that the Tres Rios project was nominated and won two Valley Forward awards.

In response to a question from Council Member Weise, Mr. Upham explained that the salt cedar will be ripped out and shredded into a mulch that would be used to prevent weeds from returning. Re-grading will be kept to a minimum, but some of the water areas will be opened up.

Vice Mayor McDonald queried whether the Tres Rios project is part of the effort to reintroduce mesquite trees to deter salt cedar growth. Mr. Upham advised that he is unaware of that effort.

Council Member Karlin inquired about the educational and recreational components of the project. Mr. Upham explained that part of the recreational plan includes an educational signage program. The conceptual recreation plan also features several overlooks with shade structures and benches. Mayor Lopez Rogers added that the County is incorporating an educational component as part of the El Rio project at Estrella Mountain. The Tres Rios Nature Festival on March 5 presents a good opportunity to view recent progress. She noted that Congressman Ed Pastor has been instrumental in bringing this project to fruition.

Council Member Buster inquired about future funding sources, considering the recent effort to discourage Congressional earmarking. Mr. Upham said the City of Phoenix has instructed its lobbyists to continue supporting the project. As the project moves closer to completion, the Corps of Engineers is confident that funding will be available to finish it and added that it is much harder to start a project in the current financial environment than to finish one.

3) ARIZONA CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION UPDATE

An update on the Avondale Centennial Committee's plans and direction regarding participation in the Penny Drive, one of the State's Signature Projects.

Ms. Hill noted that Arizona only has one year left until its 100th birthday. A number of statewide and local celebrations are planned. Each community has been urged to join in. The Avondale Centennial Committee selected two projects to focus on locally: the Monument Hill Trail Project and the Pioneer Cemetery. It has been extremely difficult to move the Monument Hill project forward because of the lack of funds available during the recession. Lari Spire and Janeen Gaskins have been instrumental in overcoming this obstacle. Ms. Hill introduced Janeen Gaskins to present regarding the Monument Hill project.

Ms. Gaskins acknowledged that Monument Hill is an asset to Avondale with historical and cultural significance. It also offers educational and recreational opportunities. The project has picked up a great deal of support over the course of 2010. Stakeholders were tapped for their expertise. She proceeded to summarize the progress made thus far including a donation of \$500 from the Arizona Professional Surveyors donated \$500, submission by

the National Park Services of a Cost Share grant on behalf of Avondale, receipt of a grant from Tohono O'odham in the amount of \$25,000, extension of the Rivers/Trails Conservation Assistance grant, submission and approval of the trail as a Legacy Project, a \$1000 donation by West Valley Recreation Corridor for binoculars, a story on Phoenix Magazine, submission of the right-of-way application to the State, submission of an application for a Recreation Trails Grant, among others.

Ms. Gaskins indicated the City's plan for 2011 includes meeting with the Gila River Indian Community and PIR, determination by the BLM as to whether an archeological study will be necessary, design of educational components for the trail, backfill of the path with rock to create an 8% grade, wayfinding and easement work, coordination of youth volunteers for Global Service Day in April, commence construction in September and October with completion expected in December. The opening would occur in February of 2012, with care being taken to avoid any conflicts with PIR events.

Regarding the Pioneer Cemetery project, Ms. Hill reported that the Centennial Committee is working to identify individuals who might be buried there.

Ms. Hill advised that the State of Arizona has several signature projects planned for the centennial and invites communities to participate in them. Of those signature projects, Avondale is considering participating in the Centennial Tree Project, The Arizona Centennial Copper Chopper and the Centenarians Brunch. Each city is being encouraged to hold a birthday celebration on February 14 of 2012. The State of Arizona also intends to sell a specialty front license plate.

Ms. Hill reviewed the CENTennial Penny Drive which is scheduled to run from February 9 to April 15, 2011 at K-8 schools. The goal is to collect enough pennies and other coins to amass \$250,000 to fund an annuity to pay for the ongoing maintenance of the copper dome at the Capitol Building. Forty eight prizes will be awarded and will include one to the school that collects the most money overall, the top schools from each county and schools that reach certain percentage goals.

Staff has contacted Avondale schools to determine their participation plans. Thus far, only the Avondale School District has expressed interest. She proposed that the City divide all coins thrown in the City's fountain between participating schools, however, they will have to clean the corroded coins. Students could use the collection effort to learn more about the importance of copper to the State, and could conduct science projects to determine the best way to clean corroded coins.

Council Member Weise commented that Council Members should contact charter and private schools as well. He suggested that City departments could participate in a collection contest. The Cemetery project is especially meaningful, as the Council has supported it for a long time. Ms. Hill committed to provide more updates on centennial projects as the year progresses.

Council Member Karlin inquired about public access to the Monument Hill Trail, considering it is behind the PIR's gate. Ms. Hill responded that Lari Spire has worked hard to untangle the issues related to land ownership in that area and find a way to access it. PIR leases

land from the Bureau of Land Management and don't actually own it. A section of land is available for the City's easement, which would allow access to the gate at the foot of the hill. The City intends to fence the western edge of the trail along the border with PIR to close the seating area off. The trailhead will be located down by the river. A telescope is planned for the summit, as well as informational signage to provide wayfinding.

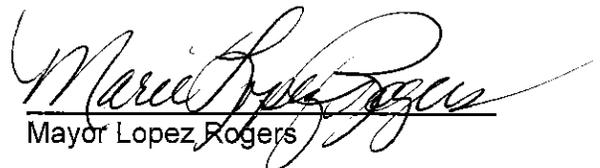
Council Member Karlin remarked that the project has come a long way. The recession raised concerns that many centennial projects were not going to come to fruition. The State acknowledges that Avondale is one of the few cities with an organized plan for centennial projects. She said she would encourage schools to join the coin collection effort.

Council Member Vierhout questioned whether coins from the fountain would only go to schools within Avondale's borders. Mr. Hill acknowledged that the issue has not been addressed yet. Mayor Rogers encouraged Council Members as school ambassadors to contact their schools.

4) ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, Council Member Weise moved to adjourn the work session. Council Member Vierhout seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.



Mayor Lopez Rogers



Carmen Martinez, CMC
City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Work Session of the Council of the City of Avondale held on the 7th day of February 2011. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that the quorum was present.



City Clerk

Minutes of the Regular Meeting held February 7, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Rogers and Council Members

Jim McDonald, Vice Mayor

Jim Buster

Stephanie Karlin

Frank Scott

Charles Vierhout

Ken Weise

ALSO PRESENT

Charlie McClendon, City Manager

David Fitzhugh, Assistant City Manager

Eric Morgan, Development Services Department

Andrew McGuire, City Attorney

Carmen Martinez, City Clerk

1 ROLL CALL AND STATEMENT OF PARTICIPATION BY THE CITY CLERK

2 UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

3 CONSENT AGENDA

Items on the consent agenda are of a routine nature or have been previously studied by the City Council at a work session. They are intended to be acted upon in one motion. Council members may pull items from consent if they would like them considered separately.

a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of January 24, 2011

b. LIQUOR LICENSE SERIES 10 (BEER AND WINE STORE) FOR QUIKTRIP #1424

A request from Mr. Troy DeVos for a Series 10 Beer and Wine Store License at QuikTrip #1424 located at the northwest corner of Avondale Boulevard and Coldwater Springs Boulevard in Avondale.

c. ORDER NO. 2 TO THE AVONDALE BOULEVARD & ENCANTO BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

A request to approve Change Order No. 2 to the Avondale Boulevard and Encanto Boulevard Intersection Improvement Construction Contract with Visus, Inc. in the amount of \$24,796.36, authorize the necessary transfer of funds and authorize the Mayor, or City Manager and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

d. RESOLUTION 2953-211 - AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF UASI GRANT FROM THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

A resolution authorizing the acceptance of an Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant from the Arizona Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$9,575 to purchase equipment, supplies and planning services associated with the Sheltering/Volunteers Reception Project and authorize the Mayor or City Manager and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

e. RESOLUTION 2951-211 - INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF TOLLESON FOR FY2010/2011 TRANSIT SERVICES

A resolution approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Tolleson for FY2010/2011 Transit Services and authorize the Mayor or City Manager and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

f. RESOLUTION 2952-211 - INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF GOODYEAR FOR FY2010/2011 TRANSIT SERVICES

A resolution approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Goodyear for FY2010/2011 Transit Services and authorize the Mayor or City Manager and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

g. RESOLUTION 2954-211 AND ORDINANCE 1444-211 - AMENDMENT TO THE CITY CODE, CHAPTER 4, BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS AND RESOLUTION 2956-211 APPROVING A PERMIT AND PLAN REVIEW RATE SCHEDULE

A resolution declaring as a public record certain documents filed with the City Clerk and entitled the "2009 International Building Code," the "2009 International Residential Code," the "2009 International Mechanical Code," the "2009 International Plumbing Code," the "2008 National Electrical Code," the "2009 International Fuel Gas Code," the "2009 International Energy Conservation Code" and "The Avondale Amendments to the 2009 International Building Code, the 2009 International Residential Code, the 2009 International Mechanical Code, the 2009 International Plumbing Code, the 2008 National Electrical Code, the 2009 International Fuel Gas Code and the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code", an ordinance adopting the same by reference, amending the Avondale City Code, Chapter 4, Buildings and Building Regulations Relating to Building Codes; establishing an effective date and providing penalties for violations and a resolution approving a permit and plan review rate schedule and setting an effective date.

h. ORDINANCE 1442-211 – ACCEPTING AN EASEMENT AND AGREEMENT WITH ROOSEVELT IRRIGATION DISTRICT FOR THE 107TH AVENUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

An ordinance accepting an easement to maintain and repair City improvements on Roosevelt Irrigation District land on 107th Avenue from Indian School Road to the RID Canal, approve an Agreement with RID granting the City permanent access to the portion of the Property for the purpose of maintaining and repairing City improvements on the Property and authorize the Mayor or City Manager, and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

i. ORDINANCE 1443-211 - AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF 103 W. ELM LANE

An ordinance authorizing the sale of real property located at 103 W. Elm Lane Avondale, Arizona 85323 and authorize the Mayor or City Manager and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

Vice Mayor McDonald moved to approve the consent agenda as presented including Resolutions 2951-211-, 2952-211, 2953-211, 2954-211 and 2956-211 and Ordinances 1442-211, 1443-211 and 1444-211. Council Member Vierhout seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:

Vice Mayor McDonald	Aye
Council Member Scott	Aye

Council Member Vierhout	Aye
Mayor Lopez-Rogers	Aye
Council Member Weise	Aye
Council Member Karlin	Aye
Council Member Buster	Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

4 LIBRARY UPDATE 2011

An update regarding the programs and activities at the City of Avondale Libraries.

Charlie McClendon introduced Chris Reams, Parks, Library and Recreation Director to present this item.

Chris Reams indicated Avondale Librarian Ava Gutwein would present the first part of the update.

Ava Gutwein reviewed the activities, usage, events and activities taking place at the Avondale Libraries as more specifically described in the Council report.

Chris Reams commented that while technology is changing how patrons use the library, technology has not changed the Library's mission and the goal will be to balance between traditional materials and new library technology. The State Library has conducted training classes for staff and the public regarding new e-readers. Training in this area will continue.

Chris Reams indicated that e-rate is a federally funded program which reimburses schools and libraries for a portion of the costs of connectivity for internet and phone systems. Based on the city's population and usage at the Sam Garcia Library, it is estimated that Avondale will get about \$11,000 annually from this program.

Mr. Reams indicated that technology has also changed the competencies that librarians are required to have. Training will continue for staff and patrons to improve knowledge in this area.

Mr. Reams commented that the computers at the libraries are often used by new and established small business owners. He indicated that with the assistance of Ruth Clark from the Neighborhood and Family Services Department, staff will have a focus group to get an idea of what resources are needed at the library for small business owners. Staff will also seek grant funding to enhance the resources and services that can be made available.

Regarding the library card program, Mr. Reams indicated that a contest will be held to select a new design for the card. The specialty cards will be available to the public for a fee, however, the regular card will continue to be available to patrons at no charge.

Chris Reams reviewed the early release program recently established at the Sam Garcia Library with the cooperation of the Parks and Rec Department, Neighborhood and Family Services, Police Department and the Boys and Girls Club. The program gives an option for teens on early release days to go to the library and participate in activities. Snacks are provided by Papa John's Pizza and Food City once a month.

Chris Reams indicated that an area of the Civic Center Library has been converted into an art gallery which will feature a rotating art exhibit put together by Art League West. A similar exhibit will be featured at City Hall. The initiative will give local artists the opportunity to display their work.

Council Member Vierhout indicated he is pleased with the initiative for small businesses and the early release program.

Council Member Scott commented that both he and his wife participated in the e-reader classes and was very complimentary of the after school program as it addresses the concerns expressed by small business owners in the area. In response to a question from Council Member Scott, Ms Gutwein indicated that she does not have exact participation figures for the Sam Garcia Library, but traffic has definitely increased since the new library was completed.

In response to a question from Council Member Weise, Chris Reams indicated that Ms Gutwein is working with other cities to form a consortium to purchase e-book technology. Council Member Weise suggested offering e-seminars for small business owners, investment seminars for seniors and people who are re-entering the workforce and other related topics that may be of interest to them. He suggested that library hours should be extended when the city is able to start restoring services.

Council Member Karlin agreed with Council Member Weise regarding providing e-seminar for business owners. She indicated there is a lot of value to developing partnerships with schools. Asked how many kids participate in the early release program. Chris said that he did not have numbers but could get information to Council. She suggested including a healthy option to the snacks provided to the students at the early release program.

Vice Mayor McDonald complimented staff on looking for new ideas to provide new services such as e-readers and the early release program. Chris Reams commented that traditional books will not go away as many people still continue to seek them.

Council Member Weise suggested working something with ASC and local schools to provide transportation to the ASC so kids can participate in physical activities.

Mayor Lopez Rogers asked if internet providers offer grant funding for connectivity services. Chris Reams replied that e-rate is probably the first of that type of programs and expects that as the field grows private companies will start offering grant monies.

Regarding the small business initiatives, Mayor Lopez Rogers suggested involving the Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Lopez Rogers asked who the schools can contact regarding the schools displaying art at the library. Chris replied that a schedule has been developed with Art League West but there is flexibility to host school exhibits. Ms Gutwein mentioned that Littleton elementary has had exhibits at the Civic Center Library.

5 SITE PLAN APPROVAL PROCESS

City Council direction regarding the Site Plan approval process.

Charlie McClendon indicated that Council asked for more information regarding the site plan approval process. He indicated that staff is currently working on the update of Section 1 of the Zoning Ordinance and the Council's feedback will be incorporated into the amendment.

Tracy Stevens, Planning Manager, indicated that historically site plans with a PAD zoning designation have been submitted to the Council for approval following review by the Planning Commission. Staff has been working with Economic Development to streamline the process to be more competitive when working with the development community. Recent amendments to the zoning ordinance such as the landscape and sign ordinance as well as the design manuals provide safeguards to the City to ensure high quality developments.

Ms Stevens listed the cities and towns that currently provide administrative approval of site plans; Gilbert and Tempe have design review boards. Mesa, Buckeye, Scottsdale and Surprise have site plan review processes that are similar to Avondale's. She indicated that staff is scheduled to present proposed amendments to Section 1 of the Zoning ordinance to the City Council on March 21st.

Council Member Weise commented that he has confidence in staff and would not have a problem with staff approving the site plans administratively. He added that Council can still ask for updates and opined that this would allow the city to be more competitive.

Council Member Scott asked for clarification regarding the process. Ms Stevens indicated Council would still hear and approve the zoning cases and general plan amendments if applicable. Site plan approvals would be done administratively. In response to a subsequent question from Council Member Scott, Ms Stevens indicated that administrative review would reduce a project's time by about four months. Council Member Scott commented that he does not have a problem with allowing administrative approval but would like to receive updates as the Council has to respond to the citizens of Avondale.

Council Member Buster expressed confidence in staff and support for changing the process.

Vice Mayor McDonald agreed that the reduction in time to process an application is a step in the right direction. He added that regular updates will be important.

Council Member Weise commented that on occasion developers will go to Council when they do not like staff's decision. He indicated that he agrees with giving the responsibility to staff.

Council Member Vierhout expressed support for the change.

Mayor Lopez Rogers indicated that she has confidence in staff, but asked if the change would tie the hands of future councils. Mr. McClendon responded that the Council can revert the process in the future should they feel that is necessary.

6 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, Council Member Weise moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Council Member Vierhout seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:

Vice Mayor McDonald	Aye
Council Member Scott	Aye
Council Member Vierhout	Aye
Mayor Lopez-Rogers	Aye
Council Member Weise	Aye
Council Member Karlin	Aye
Council Member Buster	Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

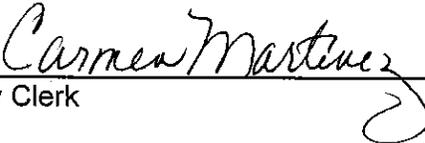
9 ADJOURNMENT


Marie Lopez-Rogers
Mayor Rogers


Carmen Martinez, CMC
City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Session of the Council of the City of Avondale held on the 7th day of February, 2011. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that the quorum was present.


Carmen Martinez
City Clerk