

Minutes of the Regular Meeting held March 21, 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

ABSENT/EXCUSED

Ken Weise

ALSO PRESENT

Charlie McClendon, City Manager
David Fitzhugh, Assistant City Manager
Rogene Hill, Assistant City Manager
Andrew McGuire, City Attorney
Carmen Martinez, City Clerk

1) ROLL CALL AND STATEMENT OF PARTICIPATION BY THE CITY CLERK

Carmen Martinez, City Clerk, read a statement of participation regarding public appearances.

2) SCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

- a. Mr. Michael Stull, Manager of Government Relations for Cox Communications

Mr. Stull spoke on behalf of Cox Communications. He indicated Cox Communications has a license with the City and the company likes to update cities periodically. He reviewed the improvements Cox Communications has done to its system to better serve its customers. Mr. Stull indicated that the company is heavily committed to the community and in 2010 they donated in excess of \$19 million in cash and in-kind donations to valley charities and has added an option for customers to make a donation to charities when they pay their bill. Mr. Stull concluded by reviewing the telecommunication services Cox is now offering to businesses.

Mayor Rogers thanked Mr. Stull for the update and the partnership.

3) UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Maria Malice, spoke as President of Alarm Association. She indicated she was unable to attend last week's meeting. Asked for hold on implementation of alarm ordinance as she believes the Council adopted an unconstitutional ordinance. Ms Malice indicated the Association has retained an attorney and a formal letter should be received by end of week. There is still time to work on an amiable solution.

Betty Lynch, spoke regarding the Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development. She indicated that safe places have been established at the YMCA, QT Stations, funeral homes and churches where kids can stay while they wait to get picked up to be taken to the Center where they can spend the night and get the services they need. Volunteer drivers are needed to pick up children from the safe location to the Tumbleweed Center.

City Manager indicated he would have the Community Relations Director follow-up with Ms Lynch.

4) 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

1. Work Session of March 7, 2011
2. Regular Meeting of March 7, 2011

b. TELE-TRACK WAGERING FACILITY PERMIT APPLICATION - SCREWBALLS WINGS PIZZA AND THINGS

A request from Mr. Tracy Custar for a Tele-Track Wagering Establishment Permit at Screwballs Wings Pizza and Things located at 965 E Van Buren Street #123-125 in Avondale.

c. FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT – LEE ENGINEERING, L.L.C.

A request to approve the First Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with Lee Engineering, L.L.C. to provide additional design services for the Avondale Transportation Plan and authorize the Mayor, or City Manager and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

d. ORDINANCE 1451-311 - AMENDMENT TO AVONDALE CITY CODE, CHAPTER 20, ALARM SYSTEMS

An ordinance amending the Avondale City Code, Chapter 20, Article III, Alarm Systems, relating to regulating the activities and responsibilities of alarm and alarm system owners and businesses.

Vice Mayor McDonald moved to approve the consent agenda as presented including Ordinance 1451-311. Council Member Vierhout seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:

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

Motion carried 6-0.

5) AVONDALE CIRCULATOR SERVICE UPDATE

An update regarding a study conducted by the Maricopa Association of Governments on behalf of the City of Avondale to determine the feasibility and benefit to the community of a local Circulator that would replace the START Route (131) with improved service.

City Manager Charlie McClendon introduced Assistant City Manager Rogene Hill to present this item.

Rogene Hill reviewed the particulars of this item as more specifically described in the council report. She indicated that MAG completed a study in 2010 whereby they recommended the implementation of a circulator for Avondale. A public survey revealed support for the circulator as well. She indicated route service has been reduced due to funding shortfalls. She reviewed ridership numbers which indicated that relative to its size and population, Avondale's ridership is high and is expected to double with the implementation of the circulator. The circulator will run every 30 minutes as opposed to every 60 minutes which should also increase ridership due to improved connectivity. The circulator will use buses that were returned to RPTA by Sun City due to service reductions. Cost per mile will be \$3.60 per mile including maintenance; she pointed out the City currently pays Phoenix over \$6.00 per mile for the Route 131 service. Ms. Hill reviewed the proposed route which will connect to other routes at several locations, provide service to EMCC and now connect to shopping area on 99th avenue and McDowell. Service will run from 5:30 am to 8:30 pm on weekdays with no weekend service. She indicated that in spite of lower cost per mile, the overall cost is going to be \$120,000 more due to improved frequencies and a longer route. She indicated the transit fund has enough money to cover the shortfall until 2019 and a voter approved initiative could be used after 2019. Implementation of the Circulator should help for future transit options such as commuter rail and a transit center. Ms Hill concluded by saying that if it is Council's desire to proceed with the circulator the recommendation is for Council to approve submittal of the JARC grant application in tonight's agenda. Staff will notify Phoenix of the City's intent to end Route 131, finalize contract with RPTA for the use of the buses and the service. The service would begin July 1, 2011 and transit users will be notified. The City will also continue discussions with neighboring cities to expand and integrate services.

Mayor Rogers indicated this is very exciting as it has been a council goal for a long time.

Vice Mayor McDonald expressed support for the circulator especially because of the increased frequency and reduced cost per mile. In response to a question from Vice Mayor McDonald, staff indicated they did not know whether people could stand if there were more than 11 passengers. Regarding wrapping of the buses, Vice Mayor McDonald commented it presents an opportunity to advertise and generate some revenue for the city. Ms Hill indicated she would check with RPTA whether advertising opportunities would be available.

Council Member Karlin indicated that in addition to increased frequency and connectivity, the circulator will also contribute to reducing the City's carbon footprint. In response to a subsequent question from Council Member Karlin, staff confirmed that the buses are ADA accessible and have bike racks.

Council Member Buster commented this is a creative solution to funding shortfalls. Expressed support for working with neighboring cities.

In response to a question from Council Member Vierhout, Ms Hill indicated four buses will be running at any one time.

City Manager indicated that staff will proceed with notification to Phoenix regarding the City's intent to discontinue the Route 131 service and will finalize the contract with RPTA and Total Transit Service.

6) RESOLUTION 2964-311 - ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION 2011 JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE GRANT

A resolution supporting the submittal of a grant proposal to the Arizona Department of Transportation Public Transportation Division for the Rural and Small Urban Application Section 5316, Job Access and Reverse Commute Transportation Program; to provide funding to support transit operations for an Avondale Circulator Route in the amount of \$350,000 with a 50% match requirement and authorize the Mayor or City Manager and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

Vice Mayor McDonald moved to adopt Resolution 2964-311; Council Member Karlin seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:

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

Motion carried 6-0.

Betty Lynch requested to speak after approval of this item. She indicated that there are many residents who do not live in the lower income areas who may still need transportation assistance for a variety of reasons. She suggested expanding service to as many areas as possible to assist more residents. She offered to help with additional surveys if needed or whatever else is needed to ultimately expand the service to reach more residents.

7) EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. An executive session pursuant to ARIZ. REV. STAT. § 38-431.03 (A)(4) for discussion or consultation with the City's Attorney in order to consider its position and instruct the City Attorney regarding the Council's position regarding the SLT Expressway litigation.

Vice Mayor McDonald moved to adjourn to executive session; Council Member Vierhout seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:

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

Motion carried 6-0.

8) ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.


Marie Joseph 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 Meeting of the Council of the City of Avondale held on the 21st day of March, 2011. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that the quorum was present.


Carmen Martinez
City Clerk