

Minutes of the Work Session held October 3, 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
Shirley Gunther, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager
Andrew McGuire, City Attorney
Carmen Martinez, City Clerk

1) ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK

2) UPDATE ON ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LOOP 303/I-10 PROJECT

An update from the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) regarding its transportation construction projects in the West Valley. For information and discussion only.

Brock Barnhart, Assistant Communications Director of the Arizona Department of Transportation, stated that the Loop 303 is really an extension of the I-10 Improvement Project. Megan Griego explained that construction on the Loop 303/I-10 corridor will begin in November. Loop 303 stretches from I-17 in the north to the I-10 in Goodyear. The stretch between I-17 and Happy Valley Road is already open. From there, Loop 303 extends south from US-60 to Thomas Road in the Surprise area. Construction for that portion is expected to be complete in 2015.

Ms. Griego advised that the Loop 303 traffic interchange will take about 2.5 years to complete. Phase 5 of the 303 project, south of I-10, is programmed for construction from 2026 to 2031. When completely built, the Loop 303 extension will look very similar to I-10 and Loop 101 in the Avondale area, with frontage roads, ramp connections and freeway interchanges. It will have two lanes in each direction.

Ms. Griego noted that ADOT's public outreach campaign is underway. ADOT met with the Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce who is reaching out to area residents and is conducting business walks. The public can stay in touch with the project throughout the construction process. City Council will be provided with updates every six months. Mayor and Council can also receive information via the website, email, and hotline. ASU is developing an interactive model, similar to Google Earth, that will allow people to type in an address and use navigation buttons to see what the interchange would look like from different viewpoints. The model will also simulate what the project would look like from a driver's perspective.

Council Member Weise asked whether funding for this project comes from Proposition 400 money. Ms. Griego confirmed that it does. The interchange project alone will cost about \$133 million. Council Member Weise asked whether the project was delayed because of the poor economy. Mr. Barnhart explained that this project was re-evaluated as part of the funding shortfall. An engineering group was assembled to look at ways to deliver the interchange using value-engineering concepts to reduce the cost, though they were unable to do so because of federal access requirements with the frontage roads. The bids that came in, however, were significantly lower than the engineering estimates and the project has been prioritized as part of the Regional Transportation Plan.

Vice Mayor McDonald noted that the HOV lane on south Loop 101 disappears when it connects to I-10 eastbound towards Phoenix because the ramp cannot handle that activity. He asked whether the new extension would be expandable to accommodate population growth. Mr. Barnhart explained that the HOV lane on South Loop 101 stopped at Thomas Road with the intent that it would directly connect to I-10 in the future. However, that project has been deferred to an unfunded Phase 5. At the 303 interchange, the ramps will be built with one lane initially, but will be able to accommodate two lanes in the future.

Mayor Lopez Rogers inquired about the Northern Parkway. Mr. Barnhart said the County intends to construct a section of the parkway from Sarival Avenue to Dysart Road. ADOT will construct the section from Sarival into Loop 303.

3) 2011 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

An update from Staff and CapitolEdge regarding the status of Avondale's federal legislative priorities as well as an update on recently proposed federal policies. For information and discussion, and direction.

Shirley Gunther, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager, reported that the City of Avondale renewed CapitolEdge's contract. CapitolEdge is a federal advocacy firm in Washington D.C. secured to help advance the City's federal legislative agenda. Avondale has three main criteria: to seek funding for the regional transit facility, to help identify grant opportunities, and to continue the small Urbanized Area (UZA).

Chris Giglio, of CapitolEdge, stated that partisan differences in Washington D.C. have led to some significant legislative gridlock. Major legislation is not moving right now. Budget matters, deficit reduction and job creation are seen as the highest priorities, but the two major parties have differing ideas on how to achieve those goals. In early August, the President and Congress were able to agree on legislation to increase the debt limit and a plan to reduce the deficit over the next ten years. When this was signed into law, it immediately put into effect \$1 trillion in spending reductions for discretionary programs over the next ten years and set spending caps for each year, which are mostly back loaded into the last two years.

Mr. Giglio said a Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction was tasked with finding \$1.5 trillion in additional savings over the next ten years. Senator Kyl is a member of that Committee, which has six members each from both the Democratic and Republican parties. The Committee needs to report on their recommendations by November 23 and Congress will have a month to consider them and vote. If the Committee cannot agree on

a plan to reduce spending, an across the board cut of \$1.2 trillion will occur over the next nine fiscal years and must be evenly split between defense and discretionary funding. The proposal would not mention specific programs, however, and it would be up to the President and Congress to decide what to cut. Across the board cuts would not take effect until FY2013, which gives Congress time to make changes later.

Mr. Giglio stated that President Obama put forward the American Jobs Act, a mixture of infrastructure spending and business tax breaks for hiring the unemployed and for capital expenditures. Funding would also be made available for local job training programs and for hiring firefighters and police. House Republicans plan to introduce a jobs proposal in the fall. They regularly introduce legislation to ease regulations on businesses and are trying to prevent the Obama Administration from implementing clean air regulations among others. One of the bills that the House is likely to take up would impact local governments. The bill addresses a provision, created in 2005, that collects a 3% federal withholding from all federal, state and local governments starting in 2013. The provision was scheduled to go into effect in 2011 and has been rolled back. It appears both Republicans and Democrats are in favor of repealing this provision altogether.

Mr. Giglio said that as an urbanized area (UZA) with a population of under 200,000, the City of Avondale is able to use its federal transit funding on operating assistance. UZAs above 200,000 cannot. After the 2010 census, the City of Avondale was supposed to be rolled into the Phoenix UZA, therefore losing the ability to use transit funding in this way. The Department of Commerce recently came out with a proposal to retain the UZAs from the 2000 census for the next ten years.

Mr. Giglio reported that a temporary conclusion has been reached regarding the Phoenix Goodyear Airport North Superfund site and the potential movement of that plume towards the city's drinking water wells. Crane will continue to be monitor the plume as it moves. Much work needs to be done regarding the overall cleanup of the site. He said CapitolEdge has worked hard to educate Avondale's congressional delegation, particularly on the issue of the transit facility. The delegation understands its importance. Congress has not found a vehicle to fund it yet, and they have not been able to get a long-term transportation reauthorization bill rolling. If Congress were to authorize such a bill based on the receipts coming in to the trust fund, a 30% cut in funding from current levels would be required. Part of the solution may involve raising the federal gas tax, but that is unlikely to happen before the November election.

Council Member Buster said the City of Avondale has been pretty aggressive in seeking federal grants and inquired about the future of that strategy in light of the federal budget deficit. Mr. Giglio believes grant opportunities would still be available. Debt hangs over everything that Congress does. It is unlikely that entire departments are going to disappear, but there might be fewer resources across the board and Avondale has to be ready to compete for them. Council Member Buster queried whether some grant sectors could be hit harder than others. Mr. Giglio said the House recently proposed level funding for the Department of Labor and Department of Health and Human Services, as well as the elimination of about 30 Department of Education programs. Many people would prefer across the board cuts that affect everyone equally, but some members of the Super Committee have agendas for targeted cuts.

Council Member Weise inquired about the impact that Congress' continuing resolutions have on what Avondale is trying to do. Mr. Giglio explained that they are problematic. Not one of the 12 spending bills Congress is supposed to do has been approved and won't be until November, at the earliest. The delay causes agencies to rush and prevents them from adequately strategizing their priorities because they have no idea how much money they will be given. It is also difficult for cities to turn around grant proposals in 30 days. Council Member Weise asked whether the additional Congressional district Arizona is getting would affect the City. Mr. Giglio explained that a bigger delegation is better if it works together. The newest member will have low seniority, however. The retirement of Senator Kyl will not help, since he has been very helpful on the Superfund site.

Council Member Karlin thanked CapitolEdge for their work on behalf of the City and for keeping Council updated on issues in Washington. Mayor Lopez Rogers agreed, noting the difficulty in getting the UZA through. The ten-year extension will mean a great deal to Avondale. She said CapitolEdge has worked very hard to ensure that Avondale's voice is heard in Washington D.C.

3) ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.



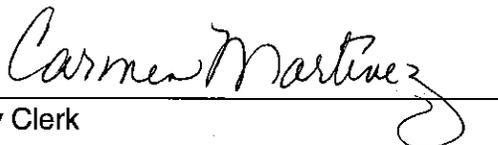
Mayor Lopez Rogers



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 3rd day of October 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 October 3, 2011 at 7:00 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
Paul Adams, Fire Chief
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 UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

There were no requests to speak.

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

1. Joint Meeting with the Planning Commission of September 12, 2011
2. Regular Meeting of September 19, 2011

b. SPECIAL EVENT LIQUOR LICENSE - RACEWAY ELKS - CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER

A request from Mr. William Veith on behalf of the Raceway Elks #2852 for a special event liquor license for a Christmas Dinner dance Charitable Fundraiser to be held on Saturday, December 17, 2011 from 5:00 to 11:00 p.m. at the Masonic Temple located at 1015 N 8th Street in Avondale.

c. CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 - CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WITH CS CONSTRUCTION, INC.

A request to approve Change Order No. 2 to the Avondale Boulevard and I-10 Traffic Interchange Improvement Construction Contract with CS Construction, Inc., authorize the appropriate fund transfers and authorize the Mayor, or City Manager and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

d. ORDINANCE 1470-1011 - AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR PUBLIC USE

An ordinance authorizing the acquisition of real property located south of the southwest corner of Avondale Boulevard and Lower Buckeye Road for public use relating to the

construction of a pressure reduction facility and authorize the Mayor or City Manager and City Clerk to execute all necessary documents.

Vice Mayor McDonald moved to approve the consent agenda as presented including Ordinance 1470-1011. Council Member Weise 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	Aye
Council Member Karlin	Aye
Council Member Buster	Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

4 EMERGENCY SERVICES AGREEMENT - PHOENIX INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY

A request to approve an Emergency Services Agreement with Phoenix International Raceway, authorize the transfer \$24,000 from the Contingency Fund to the PIR Activities Fund and authorize the Mayor or City Manager and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents. The Council will take the appropriate action.

Fire Chief Paul Adams reviewed the particular of this item as more specifically described in the council report.

Council Member Weise moved to approve the agreement; 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	Aye
Council Member Karlin	Aye
Council Member Buster	Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

5 DESIGNATION OF VOTING DELEGATES FOR NLC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Designation of a primary and an alternate voting delegate to represent Avondale at the National League of Cities' Annual Business Meeting to be held at the conclusion of the Congress of Cities in Phoenix, Arizona on November 12, 2011.

Mayor Rogers indicated that so far she and Council Member Karlin were the only ones registered to attend this year's NLC Conference and suggested Council Member Karlin be designated as the primary voting delegate and herself as the alternate.

Council Member Karlin commented she would be willing to accept the designation but encouraged other Council Members to register to attend the conference.

6 EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session pursuant to ARIZ. REV. STAT. § 38-431.03 (A)(4) for discussion or consultation with the City Attorney in order to consider its position and instruct the City Attorney regarding (i) negotiations for a potential Economic Development Agreement.

Vice Mayor McDonald moved to adjourn to executive session; Council Member Weise 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	Aye
Council Member Karlin	Aye
Council Member Buster	Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

7 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, Vice Mayor McDonald moved to adjourn the meeting; Council Member Vierhout seconded the motion.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.



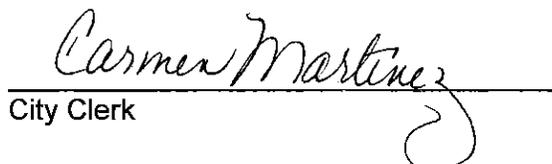
Carmen Martinez, CMC
City Clerk



Marie Lopez Rogers
Mayor Lopez Rogers

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City Clerk