

Minutes of the Work Session held July 2, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mayor Lopez Rogers and Council Members

Jim Buster  
Frank Scott  
Charles Vierhout  
Ken Weise

**ABSENCE EXCUSED**

Stephanie Karlin, Vice Mayor  
Jim McDonald, Council Member

**ALSO PRESENT**

Charlie McClendon, City Manager  
David Fitzhugh, Assistant City Manager  
Rogene Hill, Assistant City Manager  
Christopher Reams, Director of Parks, Recreation and Libraries  
Frances McCoy, Recreation Coordinator  
Andrew McGuire, City Attorney  
Carmen Martinez, City Clerk

**1) ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK**

**2) CONCEPT PLAN – FRIENDSHIP PARK AND FESTIVAL FIELDS**

Information regarding a concept plan for Friendship Park and Festival Fields to enhance park programs, services, and amenities for residents and park visitors and provide direction to staff.

Christopher Reams, Director of Parks, Recreation and Libraries, requested guidance on the concept plan for Friendship Park, which is designed to enhance park programs, services, and amenities. The Parks, Recreation and Libraries Department operates nine city parks, two of them regional. The parks receive over 300,000 visitors, who enjoy programs and activities for families, amateur sports, groups, schools, and organizations.

Mr. Reams said the proposed improvements were based on feedback received from stakeholder groups, including the public, the business community, amateur sports groups, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and the City Council. The Parks Master Plan identified comprehensive systems for public recreation. Organized sports teams complained about field availability. Families requested more pools, splash pads, and affordable activities. Tournament groups cited the need for more parking. All groups requested more activities and more non-programmed space. A key point to note is that most people felt it is better to enhance existing parks than to build new ones.

Mr. Reams reported that on October 20, 2011, a focus group discussed ways to attract and promote amateur sports in the area. City Council provided direction in November 2011, and on February 2012, citing the need for expanded park operations, high-level maintenance, exploring economic development through amateur sports, increasing and enhancing non-competitive recreation activities, and striking a balance between amateur sports and providing recreational opportunities for residents. City partners are expected to be equally concerned with City goals and objectives.

Mr. Reams explained that different park user groups have very different needs. Families simply want open space to walk and play with their children. Non-competitive groups want a place for picnics and events. Youth and amateur sports groups need spaces for organized tournament play. Different groups require different levels of maintenance, and different uses are often incompatible. Staff must proceed knowing that the park system cannot be all things to all groups. The proposed plan will enhance amenities for each group, but staff would like to increase the participation of residents to about 50%, especially at Friendship Park.

Mr. Reams summarized the proposed changes. Fields 3 through 10 will be enclosed to allow for improved maintenance practices. The walking and jogging paths around the park will indicate distances. The eastern end will be designated a community area, featuring new restrooms and concessions, family amenities, ramadas for individual families or large groups, and open play space. Football will be shifted to Festival Fields, and the current football space will be turned into parking. Friendship Park is heavily utilized by sports groups, and the City wishes to maintain and enhance this use, while still improving amenities for residents. Eventually, the dog park could be expanded to include a third cell, which would help with maintenance, as it would leave two areas open while one is rested. A disc golf area will be added to the open play space. The farmers market and other community activities could be expanded because of the new open space. Lighting will be enhanced. A third party entity will help the City manage field allocations.

Mr. Reams addressed the funding requirements for the project. The total proposed budget is \$533,000. Fenced athletic fields will cost \$130,000. The biggest expense is additional parking at \$350,000. In the future, open space lighting could be added to keep the ramada area open longer. Fields 9 and 10 could get lights. Skate parks and bike parks could also be added at a later date. It is essential that much of the work be done in a single phase so that the competitive and non-competitive spaces open at the same time. The next steps are to finalize the conceptual plan and complete contracts for design, construction sports field management, and maintenance.

Council Member Weise suggested that the play area for children, situated north of the basketball courts, should be enhanced in some way, perhaps to include a small rock-climbing wall. He inquired about the use of the football field. Mr. Reams responded that it was being used four nights a week until the City began transferring football use to Festival Fields. Council Member Weise said the dog park is very popular and has become a communal meeting place for people. He suggested expanding the agility area there. Since kids are playing on that equipment too, it might also make sense to provide kid-friendly equipment there. He supports the idea of fencing off the fields to enhance maintenance. The improvements make sense and hopefully the community will get behind the changes.

Council Member Vierhout doubted that a disc golf course amenity would be popular. Mr. Reams explained that it would not be a competitive course, just another recreational option for people that would not take up too much space. Council Member Vierhout supported the idea of using the green space as a community area. The park could use a splash pad. Mr. McClendon said several ideas could be included in the bid documents as alternatives, depending on what the City can afford at the time.

Council Member Buster inquired whether components of the project have been prioritized. Mr. Reams responded that they have not. The most important need is the fencing. Many people have asked for the ramadas. Council Member Buster inquired whether public feedback identified any priorities. Mr. Reams said the answer depends on the group. Amateur sports groups want more fields and allocations, cheaper allocations, and a higher level of maintenance. Residents want more open green space. Disparate groups want different things. Council Member Buster said competitive sports are a good economic development possibility, but open space is very necessary for recreation. The plan responds to both needs as well as it can.

Council Member Scott said he likes the plan because it walks a fine line between attracting revenue-generating activities, while increasing amenities for residents. It is important that both portions be upgraded at the same time. Council Member Vierhout suggested expansion of the concession stand.

Mayor Lopez Rogers noted that user groups have struggled to pay for on-field lighting. She suggested exploring new ways to reduce the cost of turning lights on, or consider returning to a franchise fee policy. Mr. Reams responded that while the City is always looking for ways to improve lighting efficiency, the light fee is reasonable and recovers the cost.

Council Member Weise said the American Sports Center model has been successful. He felt that privatizing the service would free staff up to focus on other things. If the City hires a third party to manage and maintain the fields, they should be monitored closely. When a company is chosen, the City should do its due diligence to make sure that they respond to concerns quickly and in a friendly manner. Mayor Lopez Rogers said the restructured plan will provide new opportunities to the community

### 3) SENIOR SERVICES UPDATE

An update on the City of Avondale Active Adult Program and provide direction on future program funding.

Mr. Reams stated that Avondale had had the Active Adult Program (AAP) for over 25 years. The program staff consists of a recreation coordinator, one recreation specialist, one senior program aid, five drivers and two cooks. Frances McCoy, Recreation Coordinator, said there are four divisions within the AAP: the congregate meal program, the home-delivered meal program, operations and activities, and the transportation program. Over 12,000 meals are served at the center annually. All meals meet the one-third daily nutritional requirements of older adults. Menus are approved by a registered dietician. The average age of program participants is 74. Between 45 and 50 meals are served daily. Sixty-four percent of the meals served are to Avondale residents, 20% to Goodyear residents, 5% are to Litchfield Park residents, and 11% are to residents outside these communities.

Ms. McCoy said 14,000 meals are delivered annually through the Home Program to residents in Avondale, Goodyear and Litchfield Park, down from a high of 20,000 in 2008. Diabetic and low sodium meal options are provided. Currently 73 meals are delivered each day on five routes. Program participation is decreasing due to funding cuts at the state and national levels. Individuals can pay out of pocket for their own meals if they do not qualify

for assistance. Currently the program has four private pay participants. Sixty-six percent of meals are delivered to Avondale residents, 29% to Goodyear, 1% to Litchfield Park and 4% were grandfathered from outside these communities when Maricopa County discontinued their service.

Ms. McCoy said 132 participants are registered for Center activities. The average age is 76. Sixty percent of participants are from Avondale, 22% from Goodyear, 5% from Litchfield Park, and 13% from other communities. Over the last six years, an average of 17 new people came to the Center every year. Six different exercise programs are led by certified instructors. The Center offers arts and crafts, brain aerobics, basic sports skills, music programs, monthly excursions, passive recreation, holiday and birthday parties, and special events. Guest speakers come in every month to discuss a variety of topics relevant to this population. Joint programs are held with the libraries and other local centers. The Turkey Bowl competition is held with the Buckeye center each year. The Center participates in three health programs. Over the past year, the center has seen a 13% increase in participation.

Ms. McCoy reported that in 2009, the Center began its own transportation program. Currently three vehicles are leased from the Area Agency on Aging. Rides are provided to transport participants from their home to the Center and during planned activities. Rides are not provided for medical or shopping purposes. Since 2009, the Center had provided 6,500 rides annually, and over 8,000 this year. About 40 passengers ride each day on average. Sixty-five percent of riders are from Avondale, 26% are from Goodyear, 5% percent are from Litchfield Park, and 4% are from outside the area.

Mr. Reams stated that the total program cost is a little over \$461,000. An Area Agency on Aging grant covers about 65% of the cost, while donations from participants cover about 1%. The City of Avondale covers about 34%, with \$118,000 coming from the General Fund, and the rest in the form of in-kind services. Goodyear is scheduled to provide \$16,500 in grants. Litchfield Park provides about \$2,000. These grants reduce Avondale's contribution by 4%. The center qualified for United Way funds last year, reducing the City's contribution by 6%.

Mr. Reams said Avondale's center has become a benchmark senior center, winning the Arizona Parks and Recreation award in 2009 and 2011. It is one of a handful of programs that is experiencing growth. The program faces several challenges. Some participants are reaching the point where they need more care, which the recreation staff is not trained for. Grant funding has been trending downward, in general, even though Avondale's program has not been affected.

Council Member Weise asked where the seniors would go if the program did not exist. Ms. McCoy explained that the senior center is really the only option in the tri-city area for these services. Goodyear does offer senior travel programs. Litchfield Park has a luncheon once a month. Council Member Weise said that as seniors get older, it becomes more difficult for them to cook meals. The home-delivered meal program provides the sustenance and camaraderie that seniors need each day. The service is a lifeline for these participants. Ms. McCoy said most participants join in order to decrease the sense of

isolation they feel. Drivers conduct welfare checks during deliveries and can contact case managers if services are required.

Council Member Weise inquired about the process staff uses when participants are experiencing difficulties. Mr. Reams explained that participants must have the ability to do certain functions on their own. If staff notices a problem, they can either contact case managers, or family members.

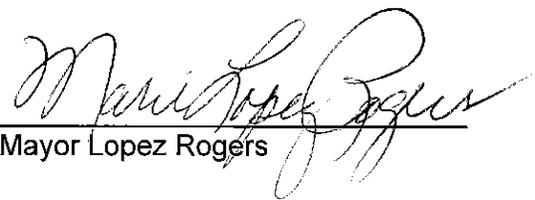
Council Member Scott said the Center provides a great service. The staff always goes the extra distance, and the place is always well-maintained. Council Member Scott asked what the center needs from City Council. Mr. Reams responded that the Center only requires the Council's continued support. He invited Council Members to visit the Center, as the seniors appreciate the companionship. Council Member Weise suggested establishing a partnership with Banner Estrella to help with participants whose health has deteriorated.

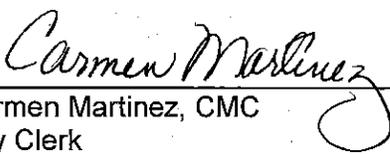
Council Member Buster inquired whether the contributions from Goodyear and Litchfield Park matched the expectations. Mr. Reams explained that a formula is used for meals, and that participants from outside the tri-city area are covered by the AAA grant. Eventually, Avondale hopes to establish intergovernmental agreements with the other two cities, to secure funding over the long term if grant funding is reduced. Mayor Lopez Rogers suggested that Mountain View Park should install exercise equipment for seniors.

#### 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 6:57 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 2nd day of July 2012. 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 July 2, 2012 at 7:03 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mayor Lopez Rogers and Council Members

Jim Buster  
Frank Scott  
Charles Vierhout  
Ken Weise

**ABSENCE EXCUSED**

Stephanie Karlin, Vice Mayor  
Jim McDonald, Council Member

**ALSO PRESENT**

Charlie McClendon, City Manager  
David Fitzhugh, Assistant City Manager  
Rogene Hill, Assistant City Manager  
Rob Lloyd, CIO/IT Director  
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 calls for 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**

1. Work Session of June 18, 2012
2. Regular Meeting of June 18, 2012
3. Special Meeting of June 18, 2012

**b. CONTRACT RENEWAL – AREA AGENCY ON AGING (AAA)**

A request to approve the contract for FY 2012-2013 with the Area Agency on Aging in the amount of \$300,564 to provide services for Congregate Meals, Home Delivered Meals, Multipurpose Center Operations, and Transportation and authorize the Mayor or the City Manager and City Clerk to execute the applicable contract documents.

**c. FIRST AMENDMENT TO DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH PHOENIX SPEEDWAY CORPORATION**

A request to approve the First Amendment to a development agreement between the City of Avondale and Phoenix Speedway Corporation and authorize the Mayor or City Manager and the City Clerk to execute the proper documents.

**d. FOURTH AMENDMENT TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT – CAPITALEDGE ADVOCACY LLC**

A request to approve the fourth amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with CapitalEdge Advocacy LLC in an amount not to exceed \$69,000 and authorize the Mayor or City Manager and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

**e. RESOLUTION 3054-712 – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING RELATING TO AN EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT**

A resolution approving a Memorandum of Understanding relating to an Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Program Grant to receive funding in the amount of \$26,984 for the purpose of maintaining a temporary Records Clerk position in the Police Department and authorize the Mayor or City Manager and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

**f. RESOLUTION 3055-712 – FIFTH AMENDMENT TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR LIBRARY RECIPROCAL BORROWING**

A resolution authorizing the Fifth Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Maricopa County Library District decreasing the Reciprocal Borrowing Program reimbursement rate from \$28.50 to \$25 per patron and authorize the Mayor or City Manager and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

**g. RESOLUTION 3058-712 – SETTING THE PROPERTY TAX LEVY FOR FY 2012-2013 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,595,850**

A Resolution setting the Property Tax Levy for fiscal year 2012-2013 in the amount of \$4,595,850.

**h. RESOLUTION 3059-712 – INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF LITCHFIELD PARK**

A resolution approving and Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Litchfield Park relating to the annexation/de-annexation of Wigwam Creek and authorize the Mayor or City Manager and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

Council Member Weise moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. Council Member Vierhout seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:**

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Council Member Vierhout | Aye            |
| Council Member Scott    | Aye            |
| Council Member Weise    | Aye            |
| Mayor Lopez Rogers      | Aye            |
| Vice Mayor Karlin       | Absent/Excused |
| Council Member McDonald | Absent/Excused |
| Council Member Buster   | Aye            |

Motion carried 5-0

**4) FIRST AMENDMENT TO COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT – CORPORATE TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS LLC**

A request to approve the First Amendment to the Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with Corporate Technology Solutions LLC for telecommunications cabling and optical fiber systems services in an annual amount not to exceed \$75,000 and authorize the Mayor or City Manager and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

Charlie McClendon, City Manager, said the City has changed its procurement policy to consolidate the way routine purchases are made. Rob Lloyd, CIO/IT Director, said the consolidation effort is intended to make purchasing as efficient as possible. Historically, purchases have been treated as individual efforts, a practice which has led to lapsed contracts and penalties. In FY2012, IT invested considerable effort into consolidating IT infrastructure costs so that equipment can be purchased by category, instead of piece by piece. Staff also wants to take advantage of cooperative purchasing vehicles and the pricing advantages that come with those. By consolidating these purchases, many repetitive steps can be eliminated. Projects can be responded to without delay.

Mr. Lloyd said all of the presented contract amounts have established limits, and are not guaranteed spending. All contracts are for one year with options to renew, and are all aligned with the cooperative purchasing agreements termination date. The City uses the best cooperative contract rate it can find. By paying for contracts in advance, the City no longer has late payments or lapses, and helps meet project deadlines.

Council Member Weise inquired about the process of evaluating companies for their expertise. Mr. Lloyd said part of the telecommunications and network contract covers the first year support for free. All companies have to go through the RFP process. Council Member Weise asked whether any realized savings would come out of each department's line item. Mr. Lloyd explained that when something needs to be replaced, it is charged back on an allocation basis. If considerable savings develop over time, it can be refunded back to the department, but usually new things come up and staff tries to address those needs within budget, rather than asking Council to approve additional purchases. It is common practice for cities to go with what they can afford, but Avondale is trying to move away from that procedure. Council Member Vierhout said he encourages his own staff to use the same procedures, as it eliminates busywork and helps with long-term planning. Mr. Lloyd said by lining up with the fiscal years of several companies, the City has been able to realize additional savings. Mayor Lopez Rogers said any process that can save money is worth considering.

Council Member Weise moved approve the First Amendment to the Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with Corporate Technology Solutions LLC for telecommunications cabling and optical fiber systems services in an annual amount not to exceed \$75,000. Council Member Vierhout seconded.

**ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:**

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Council Member Vierhout | Aye |
| Council Member Scott    | Aye |
| Council Member Weise    | Aye |

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|-------------------------|----------------|
| Mayor Lopez Rogers      | Aye            |
| Vice Mayor Karlin       | Absent/Excused |
| Council Member McDonald | Absent/Excused |
| Council Member Buster   | Aye            |

Motion carried 5-0

**5) COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT – INSIGHT PUBLIC SECTOR, INC. FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES**

A request to approve a cooperative purchasing agreement with Insight Public Sector, Inc., under a U.S. Communities contract, for the purchase of telecommunications, server, uninterruptible power supply, and electrical equipment and services in a maximum aggregate amount of \$1,200,000 over the life of the agreement and authorize the Mayor or City Manager and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

Council Member Weise moved to approve a cooperative purchasing agreement with Insight Public Sector, Inc., under a U.S. Communities contract, for the purchase of telecommunications, server, uninterruptible power supply, and electrical equipment and services in a maximum aggregate amount of \$1,200,000 over the life of the agreement. Council Member Vierhout seconded.

**ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:**

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Council Member Vierhout | Aye            |
| Council Member Scott    | Aye            |
| Council Member Weise    | Aye            |
| Mayor Lopez Rogers      | Aye            |
| Vice Mayor Karlin       | Absent/Excused |
| Council Member McDonald | Absent/Excused |
| Council Member Buster   | Aye            |

Motion carried 5-0

**6) COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT – INSIGHT PUBLIC SECTOR, INC. FOR NETWORK EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES**

A request to approve a cooperative purchasing agreement with Insight Public Sector, Inc., under a State of Arizona contract, for the purchase of network equipment and services for a total maximum aggregate amount of \$850,000 over the life of the agreement and authorize the Mayor or City Manager and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

Council Member Weise moved to approve a cooperative purchasing agreement with Insight Public Sector, Inc., under a State of Arizona contract, for the purchase of network equipment and services for a total maximum aggregate amount of \$850,000 over the life of the agreement. Council Member Vierhout seconded.

**ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:**

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|-------------------------|-----|
| Council Member Vierhout | Aye |
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|-------------------------|----------------|
| Council Member Scott    | Aye            |
| Council Member Weise    | Aye            |
| Mayor Lopez Rogers      | Aye            |
| Vice Mayor Karlin       | Absent/Excused |
| Council Member McDonald | Absent/Excused |
| Council Member Buster   | Aye            |

Motion carried 5-0

**7) UPDATE ON PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVEMENT OF COUNCIL GOALS**

An update on the progress that has been made toward achieving the goals for Fiscal Year 2011-12, which were developed by the City Council during their budget planning retreat held on November 28, 2011.

Mr. McClendon updated the Council on the progress made toward accomplishing the goals established by the Council. He first reviewed the 2011-2012 goals:

**FINANCIAL STABILITY**

Financial and budget reports and fee schedules have been put online. City Council receives updates on City finances three times a year. Shirley Gunther and others have testified before the State Legislature to protect state shared revenues. Avondale has made some inroads with the Legislature, and the City Council has helped foster relationships with certain legislators.

**QUALITY OF LIFE**

Mr. McClendon reported that the City has been working to spread the word about positive developments in Avondale, including winning the Digital Cities Award. Avondale unveiled a new website this year, and the library launched theirs in May. People now have more ways to do business with the City online, and 5,000 customers have signed up for online bill pay. Libraries have been designated a safe place where minors can go to escape abusive situations. The Tres Rios Nature Festival was named the best annual event in the West Valley for 2012. The City has been working to partner with schools on programs and events, including the Teen Youth Summit, and the Kids at Hope program.

Mr. McClendon said the volunteer income tax prep effort helps individual families with tax refunds. This effort resulted in families receiving \$264,000 in federal refunds, \$35,000 in state refunds, and \$116,000 in earned income tax credits, money which then can be spent in the local economy. Code Enforcement now puts forms online to allow citizens to notify the City about code violations. The effort to inspect entire neighborhoods at the same time makes citizens feel as though they are being treated equally. A concentrated sign enforcement program made the streets look better and applied the code in an even-handed manner.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

Mr. McClendon said the CAT team continues to enjoy success in battling crime. City Council addressed equipment needs for the Police and Fire Departments. Crime has continued to go down. The CAT team has been using a statistics-based program that tries to address specific crimes at specific locations. The partnership with the West Valley

Access Point allows officers to get help for people who need drug treatment or other assistance. Avondale continues to work with federal and state agencies on task forces to combat crime. The City structure was reorganized to provide better support to officers on the street. When major drug busts occur, the City does a better job now of promoting the success, so that the public is aware of the progress.

Mr. McClendon reported that a development agreement with Phoenix International Raceway (PIR) has been executed to address emergency operations during PIR events. IT will provide video conferencing between stations to enhance training activities. A web-based fire incident data management system will help with recordkeeping. A private sector vendor is now maintaining firefighting vehicles. Completed an evaluation by the Insurance Services Office which will likely result in lower insurance rates for residents.

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mr. McClendon stated that in order to attract a wide range of quality jobs to Avondale, the Youth and Amateur Sports, Medical and Health, Advanced Business Information Technology, and Higher Learning aspects of the General Plan were enhanced. Avondale continues to be involved in regional economic development activities. The City actively recruits businesses and employers. Phoenix Children's Hospital is under construction. Trammell Crow has begun grading for a new project. Avondale established an ad hoc committee to work on technology-based businesses. Every City employee has a stake in economic development.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

Mr. McClendon said Avondale has been working to achieve the desired conversion rate from the recycling program. Hazardous Waste Day helps citizens properly dispose of harmful substances. Staff continues to work on a sustainability plan. An environmental coordinator will be hired, and the position will be funded through fees to offset the unfunded mandates that the City received from other levels of government. Avondale has been educating the public on how to avoid pouring harmful substances down the drain. The water treatment facility is able to reclaim most water and return it to the recharge basins. City departments do many small things to save money and resources whenever possible.

#### STAFF RETENTION

Mr. McClendon reported that the city has seen mixed results in staff retention. FY2011/12 was the third consecutive year that employee salaries were held with no increase. The FY2012/13 budget includes an increase. Avondale successfully negotiated MOU's with labor associations. The Police Department established a committee to improve internal affairs investigations. The Employee Health Trust is key to improving staff retention, providing a wider range of healthcare options at reduced cost. Avondale was a leader in that effort.

#### TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT

Mr. McClendon said the City continues to be involved with regional transportation efforts. The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) agreed to landscape a section of I-10 to meet the standard of adjoining sections. That effort will begin next year. The El Mirage interchange project has been accelerated. MCDOT has agreed to make improvements to Avondale Boulevard and

Buckeye Road. Avondale has tried to promote unity among West Valley cities on transportation issues, with mixed results. The project at Avondale Boulevard and I-10 has been completed. Partnerships continue with the Southwest Valley Rail Alliance, the RPTA, and MAG. Citizens can find construction information on the City's website.

#### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Mr. McClendon noted that staff placed an emphasis on community events that did not cost much money but gave people a chance to be involved in their community. The public had many opportunities to participate in the General Plan update. City Hall Comes to You is an award-winning program. Avondale's Facebook page has 1,000 friends. The Citizenship Leadership Academy and Legislative Link programs continue. Social media links are being improved to allow for two way communication between staff and residents. All Centennial projects were completed successfully, including the popular Centennial Parade. Other events include the Residents Appreciation Night, Fire Station Open House, and Citizen Leadership Academy. Other than the parade, the City spent very little money to put them on, and in many cases they were done almost exclusively with volunteers.

Mr. McClendon said the City has started working on the goals for FY2012/13.

#### FINANCIAL STABILITY

Avondale has applied for a grant to build a trail connection under the I-10 to Friendship Park. Recreation programs continue to be self-supporting. If an offering does not attract enough people, the City simply does not offer it. Preparations are being made for the Home Rule election. Financial performance is tracked monthly, a practice which paid off during the recession.

#### QUALITY OF LIFE

Mr. McClendon said the Arts Commission is working to development some new entry monuments. Small Area Plans will be used to develop standards for landscaping at entryways. A landscaping inventory is being conducted throughout the city. The City has met with PIR to determine on ways to collaborate on initiatives such as the blood drive. A full calendar of events is funded in 2013, for the first time since the beginning of the recession. More now is being done with fewer dollars. The practice of using private sector contracts to manage events has worked out very well.

Mr. McClendon stated that a big focus in the upcoming year is housing needs and other issues in Historic Avondale. The City will continue to partner with Care First, which has been a very popular program.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

The Police Department is looking into a terrorism liaison officer position to strengthen emergency management and the ability to secure grants. The CAT team has been focusing on copper and backflow prevention device thefts, making one arrest recently in Phoenix. As the economy improves, complaints about speeding have increased, and Traffic and Police will be focusing on that. The Fire Department is providing monthly reports to City Council. Staff will soon present a long-term plan to fund the opening of the northwest fire station. Avondale continues to get grants from the Tohono O'odham and Gila River communities to fund public safety improvements.

Mr. McClendon said the Southwest Valley Family Advocacy Center will be moving this year to save money on lease payments, while serving more people. A fourth partner will be brought into the new facility. Fire is considering an accreditation program, and updating the Fire Prevention Code. The City is using a new automated performance evaluation system that will help departments in creating their own goals and objectives.

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A small business academy initiative starts in July.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

Mr. McClendon reported that Public Works will be evaluating whether alternative fuel options would work for City purchases new and replacement vehicles. Avondale continues to be active in the Superfund site, and there is evidence that the plume is not moving anymore.

#### TRANSPORATION MANAGEMENT

In conjunction with the Coldwater Depot project, the Agua Fria River Trail design is being finalized. Zoom will be expanded in July, and a marketing effort will help promote it. The Southwest Valley System Study should be done in November.

#### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

An internal secret shopper program will be implemented to identify any customer service lapses among Neighborhood and Family Services employees.

Council Member Weise felt that the City's public transparency efforts should continue, and could serve as a model for the rest of the Valley. A bigger effort is needed to get citizens to run for office and to vote. He suggested implementing a secret shopper program for Economic Development, since good performance in that area is crucial. He feels Avondale does a great job with Police and Fire. The new fire station will help the northern part of the city, especially if the annexation effort succeeds.

Mayor Lopez Rogers said every department has found ways to increase public engagement. If the public can understand the City's processes, they will have an easier time working through the system. Staff has been willing to try new ideas in response to the challenges of the recession, without ever losing sight of the need to be responsive to citizens.

#### 8) EXECUTIVE SESSION

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's Attorney regarding Winners Development Company vs. City of Avondale.

Council Member Weise moved to adjourn to executive session; Council Member Vierhout seconded the motion.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Council Member Vierhout | Aye |
| Council Member Scott    | Aye |

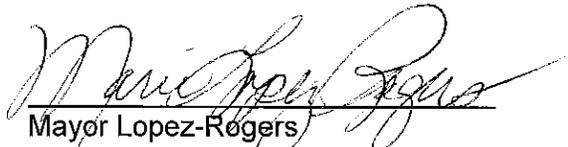
|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Council Member Weise    | Aye            |
| Mayor Lopez Rogers      | Aye            |
| Vice Mayor Karlin       | Absent/Excused |
| Council Member McDonald | Absent/Excused |
| Council Member Buster   | Aye            |

Motion carried 5-0

**9) ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Council, Council Member Buster moved to adjourn the meeting; Council Member Vierhout seconded the motion. All ayes.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mari 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 Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Avondale held on the 2nd day of July 2012. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that the quorum was present.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk