

Minutes of the special meeting held January 30, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Mayor Rogers and Council Members

Chuck Wolf, Vice Mayor
Betty Lynch
Jim Buster
Jason Earp
Frank Scott

ALSO PRESENT

Charlie McClendon, City Manager
Andrew McGuire, City Attorney

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rogers. She explained each Council member will ask a question of each of the ten candidates.

Candidate 1 – Stephanie Karlin

Council Member Earp asked the applicant; **“What is the most critical issue facing Avondale today and what is your plan of action to address this issue?”**

Ms. Karlin said transportation given its impact not only on Avondale, but on the region as a whole. She said she finds it frustrating to drive west on the I-10 and believes it reflects negatively on Avondale.

Council Member Scott asked, **“Besides public safety, transportation and growth, what other issues would you like to address as a Council Member?”**

Ms. Karlin stated they need to see what can be done to increase economic development in a way that the city does not have to tax its residents to pay for growth. She suggested they consider attracting tourism or hospitality businesses and destination points to encourage people to come to Avondale. She cited the Glendale arena and stadium as prime opportunities to achieve growth in Avondale.

Council Member Buster asked, **“Looking at all of the city departments, which ones would they seek additional funding for and why?”**

Ms. Karlin stated Economic Development and Parks and Recreation, explaining they deal with quality of life issues. She said they need to attract higher quality businesses, stores and restaurants and the Economic Development Department needs money it can use to recruit such businesses. She stated the Parks and Recreation Department works to bring the community together.

Council member Lynch pointed out Ms. Karlin did not indicate in her application which questions she was answering. She asked Ms. Karlin if the first three paragraphs pertain to

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question 1. Ms. Karlin responded yes. Council Member Lynch asked if the paragraph at the top of the next page should go with question 2 or 3. Ms. Karlin said question 3, along with the rest of that page and down to the second to the last paragraph on the following page.

Council Member Lynch asked, **“When you were on the Council previously, you said you did not like having so much of Planning and Zoning coming before the Council. In a growing city, 80 to 85 percent of the Council agenda is Planning and Zoning. Based on that, why would you want to go back on the Council?”**

Ms. Karlin agreed 85 to 90 percent of agenda items are Planning and Zoning issues. She explained a lot of time the Council went over details that should have been handled previously by meeting with the developer or holding workshops. She said she felt the Council should have had all of its questions answered prior to the item coming before them for a decision. She stated she recognizes the importance of such issues, particularly given the growth Avondale is experiencing. She expressed her opinion the caliber of those currently serving on the Council will result in the process being more streamlined.

Council Member Lynch asked Ms. Karlin if she understands that the public has the right to hear some of their discussion. Ms. Karlin responded yes.

Council Member Lynch asked, **“Can you tell me what the Council’s vision, goals or objectives are for the city?”**

Ms. Karlin said they have talked about the need for economic development and becoming a City of Character. She stated she has been personally involved with making sure there is adequate water and that the city meets air quality standards. She stated each Council Member brings their own set of skills and specialties, pointing out, for instance, Council Member Lynch and previous Council Member Ray Shuey both had strong backgrounds in finance. She said each member offers a valuable and unique position and, while those elected to office may be elected based solely on their personalities, being chosen to serve by the Council by the members themselves requires that they be someone with whom everyone feels they can work. She expressed her opinion it is important to have a variety of people on the Council. She said the Council needs detail oriented people as well as people who are abstract in their thinking.

Vice Mayor Wolf asked, **“Given the following three topics important to protecting our future as a city; transportation planning, economic development planning and implementation, and maintaining a high quality of life for citizens, which do you feel is most critical and what would you do as a Council member to have a positive affect on it?”**

Ms. Karlin said transportation is the most critical issue Avondale faces because the city will not be able to attract economic development or citizens if its transportation system is less than satisfactory. She said transportation and roads make a city and a community. She stated Avondale is very fortunate to have strong representatives already serving on the Council. She

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said they need to work the issue at the federal, state and local levels and look for unique ways to finance transportation needs. As an example, she suggested they approach insurance companies about making an investment in improving some of the high risk roadways, noting I-10 in the area of Avondale has one of the highest mortality rates in the nation. She said, from a risk management standpoint, insurance companies may consider it a good investment.

Mayor Rogers then asked, **“As they work with other communities in the southwest region and west valley, how will your participation on the Council benefit the west valley’s diverse communities?”**

Ms. Karlin said she has always tried to be involved with other communities through the Urban League, Chicanos Por La Causa, the American League and the Asian League. She emphasized the importance of understanding the priorities of the city’s diverse populations and embrace and celebrate the city’s diversity. She said she had a positive outlook and good relationships with the other communities when she served on the Council previously. She stated she found the joint meetings they held with Goodyear to be very beneficial. She suggested they hold joint meetings with other nearby cities, stating what each city does ultimately impacts the other cities that surround it.

Candidate 2 – Linda Webster

Council Member Earp asked the applicant; **“What is the most critical issue facing Avondale today and what is your plan of action to address this issue?”**

Ms. Webster said the most critical issue is monitoring the growth of Avondale. She stated, while they want the city to grow, that growth must be managed. She emphasized the need to look at both commercial and residential aspects of growth to ensure a good balance.

In follow up, Council Member Earp asked Ms. Webster what she believes represents a good balance. Ms. Webster said there needs to be enough business to support the city’s tax base and enough residential to maintain a sense of community.

Council Member Scott asked, **“Besides public safety, transportation and growth, what other issues would you like to address as a Council Member?”**

Ms. Webster stated she would like to address the need for recreational facilities in Avondale. She expressed her opinion the city is falling short of offering quality of life amenities. She said the city needs more parks and structured activities for teens.

Council Member Buster asked, **“Looking at all of the city departments, which ones would they seek additional funding for and why?”**

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Ms. Webster said the city's Public Safety Departments need more funding to maintain staffing levels that are sufficient to ensure adequate protection for Avondale citizens.

Council Member Lynch asked, **"Can you tell me what the Council's vision, goals or objectives are for the city?"**

Ms. Webster said she believes the city's General Plan is an integral part of the city's vision.

Vice Mayor Wolf asked, **"Given the following three topics important to protecting our future as a city; transportation planning, economic development planning and implementation, and maintaining a high quality of life for citizens, which do you feel is most critical and what would you do as a Council member to have a positive affect on it?"**

Ms. Webster expressed her opinion transportation is a very critical issue, stating Avondale is a growing city located a considerable distance from Phoenix. She stated citizens need to be able to easily travel not only within the city of Avondale, but to other cities throughout the valley. She said she would like to see local modes of transportation developed and to see a freeway express bus that originates in Avondale.

Mayor Rogers then asked, **"As they work with other communities in the southwest region and west valley, how will your participation on the Council benefit the west valley's diverse communities?"**

Ms. Webster said she has worked with other communities and had access to other communities through various organizations and committees on which she has served. She said she believes communities need to share information.

Candidate 3 – Joel Gorbett

Council Member Earp asked the applicant; **"What is the most critical issue facing Avondale today and what is your plan of action to address this issue?"**

Mr. Gorbett said, because the city is not able to expand in terms of land, they have to turn inward to create development opportunities for Avondale residents, businesses and destination developments. He stated, in the past, people came in from the outside to develop the city and he would rather see the city use its resources to develop as it deems best. He noted federal funding may be available to help the city be more aggressive in its pursuit of businesses.

Council Member Earp asked a follow up question, to which Mr. Gorbett responded small businesses do not necessarily stay small. As an example, he mentioned a restaurant where he recently ate which began with a woman selling tortillas.

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Council Member Scott asked, **“Besides public safety, transportation and growth, what other issues would you like to address as a Council Member?”**

Mr. Gorbett stated Public Safety and preparation for contingencies such as flooding. He said, while he knows the city has plans for a catastrophic failure at the Palo Verde Nuclear Plant, perhaps they could be strengthened. He stated he would also like to address economic development and see a littler higher priority placed on emergency management issues. He said the city could also get more involved in typography issues as they relate to the river, noting some groups in the state are very interested in improving Avondale’s piece of the river.

Council Member Buster asked, **“Looking at all of the city departments, which ones would they seek additional funding for and why?”**

Mr. Gorbett said given their work load, Planning might need additional funding. He stated any department involved in the city’s strategic plan should also get additional funding. He expressed his opinion funds are distributed fairly well.

Council Member Lynch asked, **“Can you tell me what the Council’s vision, goals or objectives are for the city?”**

Mr. Gorbett said, generally, the vision is to set Avondale apart from other west valley cities. He was unable to recall the Council’s objectives or goals.

In follow up, Council Member Lynch said, in general, small businesses do not bring tax dollars to the city, noting the largest part of the city’s budget is supported by sales tax as opposed to property taxes. She asked where the city will develop its tax base if it focuses on attracting only small businesses to the community. Mr. Gorbett clarified his intention was to emphasize small businesses, but not to the exclusion of large businesses. He cautioned against incentivizing large businesses to come to Avondale. Council Member Lynch pointed out about 95 percent of any incentives given by the city have been for infrastructure for the auto mall.

Vice Mayor Wolf asked, **“Given the following three topics important to protecting our future as a city; transportation planning, economic development planning and implementation, and maintaining a high quality of life for citizens, which do you feel is most critical and what would you do as a Council member to have a positive affect on it?”**

Mr. Gorbett stated he sees quality of life as a top priority, stating it encompasses many different issues, such as transportation and schools. He said he is impressed by the influence the city seems to have with its schools. He stated developing from within the community directly affects quality of life because business owners feel more connected to the community and the city can offer more opportunities for work. As people become connected to the community they become more involved and invested in its future.

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Mayor Rogers then asked, **“As they work with other communities in the southwest region and west valley, how will your participation on the Council benefit the west valley’s diverse communities?”**

Mr. Gorbett said he has had a lot of experience dealing with people from a wide variety of backgrounds and he knows how to bring people together as a team. He said he believes they can make Avondale into something other cities are anxious to be part of.

Candidate 4 – Jim Smith

Council Member Earp asked the applicant; **“What is the most critical issue facing Avondale today and what is your plan of action to address this issue?”**

Mr. Smith answered increased tax base so the city can start supporting its infrastructure.

Council Member Scott asked, **“Besides public safety, transportation and growth, what other issues would you like to address as a Council Member?”**

Mr. Smith said, in addition to those priority issues, he would like to address ways in which the city can attract large businesses. He suggested healthcare, general office, and technical uses as potential draws.

Council Member Buster asked, **“Looking at all of the city departments, which ones would they seek additional funding for and why?”**

Mr. Smith said Police and Fire can always use additional funding, particularly given the significant growth in Avondale. He stated they need to support city employees.

Council Member Lynch asked, **“Can you tell me what the Council’s vision, goals or objectives are for the city?”**

Mr. Smith identified the prosperity and the well being of its residents. He said residents need to feel that what they want and need in their lives can be found in Avondale.

Vice Mayor Wolf asked, **“Given the following three topics important to protecting our future as a city; transportation planning, economic development planning and implementation, and maintaining a high quality of life for citizens, which do you feel is most critical and what would you do as a Council member to have a positive affect on it?”**

Mr. Smith said they are all very important. He said the city must attract more businesses.

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Vice Mayor Wolf asked Mr. Smith if there are any economic development projects in particular he would like to pursue. Mr. Smith said he would like to talk to other cities that have already addressed the issue to find out what they did to draw businesses to their cities.

Mayor Rogers then asked, **“As they work with other communities in the southwest region and west valley, how will your participation on the Council benefit the west valley’s diverse communities?”**

Mr. Smith said as part of their effort to improve Avondale they should look closely at what other cities have done.

Candidate 5 – Alan Lageschulte

Council Member Earp asked the applicant; **“What is the most critical issue facing Avondale today and what is your plan of action to address this issue?”**

Mr. Lageschulte said growth is the most critical issue the city faces. He stated they need to stay on top of that growth, make sure development occurs in appropriate places and work with the state to ensure schools keep pace with the growth.

Council Member Scott asked, **“Besides public safety, transportation and growth, what other issues would you like to address as a Council Member?”**

Mr. Lageschulte expressed his opinion the city needs to address the southern part of Avondale, stating he would like to see more grants given to help clean up and build up that area of town. He said he hates to see division between the north and south and would like to see the south shine.

Council Member Buster asked, **“Looking at all of the city departments, which ones would they seek additional funding for and why?”**

Mr. Lageschulte answered the city’s Maintenance Department, explaining they need to keep up with the city’s streets, sewers, sidewalks, street lights, and trash collection. He stated the department seems to run on next to nothing and the cost of equipment continues to increase.

Council Member Lynch pointed out the Council meets more than every other Monday, asking, **“Will the travel you do for your current job impact your ability to serve on the Council?”**

Mr. Lageschulte responded no, stating he can schedule his traveling to accommodate the Council’s schedule. He noted he is in the process of looking for another job that will involve no travel.

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Council Member Lynch asked, **“Can you tell me what the Council’s vision, goals or objectives are for the city?”**

Mr. Lageschulte stated the Council’s vision is to make Avondale a city where everyone can live, work and recreate. He expressed his opinion the city is moving in the right direction, pointing out a number of employment type uses are coming to the city which will attract people to live in Avondale.

Vice Mayor Lynch noted Avondale will now be funded individually for CDBG funding, stating, they hope to have more funding to help improve southern Avondale. She suggested he attend a meeting that will be held at the community center within the next couple weeks.

Vice Mayor Wolf asked, **“Given the following three topics important to protecting our future as a city; transportation planning, economic development planning and implementation, and maintaining a high quality of life for citizens, which do you feel is most critical and what would you do as a Council member to have a positive affect on it?”**

Mr. Lageschulte said he believes quality of life is the most important issue. He stated the city has a fairly diverse population and they need to make sure they take care of the city as a whole. He said he would like to see grant funding made available so people can afford to make improvements to their homes and neighborhoods.

Mayor Rogers then asked, **“As they work with other communities in the southwest region and west valley, how will your participation on the Council benefit the west valley’s diverse communities?”**

Mr. Lageschulte said he has no problem working with other communities, expressing his opinion working together would benefit Avondale and allow the west valley to grow together. He said the cities will have to work together if they want to ensure they get the freeways and roads needed to attract businesses.

Candidate 6 – Ken Weise

Council Member Earp asked the applicant; **“What is the most critical issue facing Avondale today and what is your plan of action to address this issue?”**

Mr. Weise said the alignment of the South Mountain Freeway is the most important issue Avondale faces at this time. He said Avondale has to be able to determine its future with development along that corridor. He expressed his opinion, if Avondale does not get the 97th Avenue alignment, the next best option is the 55th Avenue alignment. He stated I-10 will have to be widened from 55th Avenue to Litchfield Road which will only benefit Avondale in the long run.

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Council Member Scott asked, **“Besides public safety, transportation and growth, what other issues would you like to address as a Council Member?”**

He stated his next highest priority issue would be transitioning from a purely growth economy to one in which all of the land has been sold, all of the houses have been built and all of the commercial has been developed. He spoke about a small town in Illinois that reached its peak during the 1960's and 70's, stating all of their land has been used up and commercial development has been done, yet the city still thrives. He said they can attribute their success to planning for the future back in the 1960's and 1970's. He explained they ensured infrastructure was in place to transition the homes from beginner homes into homes for people looking to move there to retire. He stated the town was able to stay stable and the tax rate remained relatively low. He said their downtown area mimics that of Glendale, which is what he would look at for Avondale's downtown area.

Council Member Buster asked, **“Looking at all of the city departments, which ones would they seek additional funding for and why?”**

Mr. Weise stated the first would be Public Safety. He said they need to look at how they increase the efficiency of the department and retain officers the city spends good money to train. He said he would then look at the city's Parks Department, expressing his opinion Avondale needs more parks. He stated they also need to look at what they can do to keep revitalization efforts in the downtown area moving forward, establishing a north area senior community center and how they can make the city's facilities accessible to those who have no transportation.

Council Member Lynch asked, **“Can you tell me what the Council's vision, goals or objectives are for the city?”**

Mr. Weise stated in November of 2005 the Council set forth eight goals; financial stability, quality of life, public safety, community development, staff retention, traffic, environmental leadership, and community involvement. He noted mass transit in Avondale increased 32 percent over the past 2.5 years, stating they need to look at whether that is due to fuel cost increases or growth in the west valley. He stated through serving on the Rancho Santa Fe Homeowners Association he has come to understand the importance of getting people involved. He said out of the 8,000 or 9,000 people who live in Rancho Santa Fe they only get 300 or so to show up for their major GAIN Night events. He said community involvement helps stabilize neighborhoods.

Vice Mayor Wolf asked, **“Given the following three topics important to protecting our future as a city; transportation planning, economic development planning and implementation, and maintaining a high quality of life for citizens, which do you feel is most critical and what would you do as a Council member to have a positive affect on it?”**

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Mr. Weise said the three issues go hand-in-hand and the city has to be careful to ensure quality economic development. He explained he is moving to Roosevelt Park and what attracted him to that subdivision was its range of homes and elevations, the options they offered, and the surrounding area. He identified the Hilton Development and Gateway Crossing as examples of the quality development he would like to see. He said the city needs to ensure quality development occurs on the 400 acres it set aside for light industrial. He stated the development should include a mix of commercial and industrial and they need to make sure those who work there live in Avondale. He said one of the biggest challenges is keeping Avondale one city, stating it is not just the area west of I-10. He stated the city has invested a lot of money into Central Avenue and Western Avenue, but unless those people are given the opportunities he and many other residents have had, the area will fail. He said they need to balance transportation, economic development and the social issues that go along with that development. He expressed his opinion the Council has done a good job over the past four years prioritizing what they want to do. He said the city needs to ensure it offers critical social services, such as financial counseling, crisis management, and after school activities. He stated economic development has come to Avondale and how the city manages that development will be crucial. He commented on the talent of city staff members Jeff Fairman and Charlie McClendon, stating they need to give people who have talent the freedom to do their jobs.

Mayor Rogers then asked, **“As they work with other communities in the southwest region and west valley, how will your participation on the Council benefit the west valley’s diverse communities?”**

Mr. Weise stated the MAG Regional Transportation Plan affects all west valley cities. He stated it is incumbent upon Council members to get involved in what happens regionally because, ideally, getting involved in regional issues will only help Avondale.

Candidate 7 – Gail Leitner

Council Member Earp asked the applicant; **“What is the most critical issue facing Avondale today and what is your plan of action to address this issue?”**

Ms. Leitner said it is not possible to narrow it down to one issue, expressing her opinion they need to look at growth, both in terms of economic development and population. She said economic development will bring jobs to Avondale which will impact the amount and quality of housing available in Avondale.

Council Member Scott asked, **“Besides public safety, transportation and growth, what other issues would you like to address as a Council Member?”**

Ms. Leitner stated she would like to continue the Council’s efforts to make Avondale residents feel they are all one and that they are important to Avondale’s future. She said she would like to

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meet with residents to encourage their participation in the city, expressing her opinion getting involved will help educate residents about the things that go on in the city.

Council Member Buster asked, **“Looking at all of the city departments, which ones would they seek additional funding for and why?”**

Ms. Leitner stated it is a well-known fact that the city’s Fire and Police Departments need to be addressed, but not necessarily at the expense of other departments who may also have significant needs. She said they need to look at the full picture to see where excess funds would be best utilized.

Council Member Lynch asked, **“Can you tell me what the Council’s vision, goals or objectives are for the city?”**

Ms. Leitner said one of the goals is to enrich the city so as to attract more residents and meet the needs of those residents.

Vice Mayor Wolf asked, **“Given the following three topics important to protecting our future as a city; transportation planning, economic development planning and implementation, and maintaining a high quality of life for citizens, which do you feel is most critical and what would you do as a Council member to have a positive affect on it?”**

Ms. Leitner said transportation is important to Avondale’s ability to attract economic development, but economic development has to be the priority because many transportation issues can be addressed when the actual development occurs. She stated she would like to listen to the people to determine what they would like to see and listen to the Economic Development Director to learn what types have businesses have proposed coming to Avondale.

Mayor Rogers then asked, **“As they work with other communities in the southwest region and west valley, how will your participation on the Council benefit the west valley’s diverse communities?”**

Ms. Leitner stated during her previous time on the Council she networked with other west valley cities and became familiar with the Council members from those cities. She said they had opportunities to share ideas and learn what has worked in other cities. She expressed her opinion she still has a good rapport with those cities and would like to keep those lines of communication open.

The meeting recessed for a short break.

Candidate 8 – Mark Moyle

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Council Member Earp asked the applicant; **“What is the most critical issue facing Avondale today and what is your plan of action to address this issue?”**

Mr. Moyle said one of the most critical issues is giving citizens more opportunities to work in Avondale. He stated they also need to address the pseudoephedrine issue, explaining it is a matter of balancing convenience with the security of citizens. He said they need to attract more business by offering incentives to companies who would offer jobs to Avondale residents. He pointed out the benefits in Avondale that should be highlighted to attract businesses, such as its proximity to freeways and its abundant workforce.

Council Member Scott asked, **“Besides public safety, transportation and growth, what other issues would you like to address as a Council Member?”**

Mr. Moyle stated he wants to ensure the beauty of their environment is preserved for future generations. He said Avondale has many scenic areas, wonderful hiking trails and beautiful rivers. He stated the city should do what it can to protect the natural resources that are within its boundaries.

Council Member Buster asked, **“Looking at all of the city departments, which ones would they seek additional funding for and why?”**

Mr. Moyle explained his sister is the first female Police Lieutenant in the City of College Park Georgia so Police and Fire Protection are near and dear to his heart. He said they have to have appropriate equipment and supplies and be manned appropriately. He stated it is important to ensure those departments are funded adequately to do the job of protecting the city's citizens.

Council Member Lynch asked Mr. Moyle to clarify a couple questions on his application. She first asked, **“If you have two areas of the city where there is a need, but you only have sufficient dollars to fund one, how would you decide which to fund?”**

Mr. Moyle said he would look at who has waited longest and where the city would receive the best return on its investment. He stated it could be a hard choice and it may require looking closer at each area to see if there is anything that differentiates them and indicates one area's need is slightly greater. He said there may be times when a compromise is the best option, giving each area part of what they need.

Council Member Lynch then asked, **“What has your investment in the city been up to this point.”**

Mr. Moyle said, while he has not had an opportunity to serve on the city's Boards or Commissions, he has volunteered and worked with different community groups, such as AYSO Soccer. He noted he is also mentoring a young man who does not have a family through the

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Pendergast Elementary School District. He said he has worked with the young man to give him some hope for his future.

Council Member Lynch asked, **“Can you tell me what the Council’s vision, goals or objectives are for the city?”**

Mr. Moyle said one of the goals that struck him was looking at Old Town Avondale as an asset and developing it as a place where residents and tourists can go to shop.

Vice Mayor Wolf asked, **“Given the following three topics important to protecting our future as a city; transportation planning, economic development planning and implementation, and maintaining a high quality of life for citizens, which do you feel is most critical and what would you do as a Council member to have a positive affect on it?”**

Mr. Moyle expressed his opinion economic development and maintaining a high quality of life for residents go hand-in-hand. He said economic development will provide more employment opportunities for residents and increase the city’s tax base. He stated he would put the highest priority on economic development. He said it is imperative that businesses receive incentives for hiring local citizens rather than outsourcing their jobs.

Mayor Rogers then asked, **“As they work with other communities in the southwest region and west valley, how will your participation on the Council benefit the west valley’s diverse communities?”**

Mr. Moyle said he is able to take diverse ideas and bring them together to result in an even stronger idea. He said he believes they need to work together not only to benefit Avondale, but the west valley as a whole.

Candidate 9 – Craig Ross

Council Member Earp asked the applicant; **“What is the most critical issue facing Avondale today and what is your plan of action to address this issue?”**

Mr. Ross said Avondale’s rapid growth is a critical issue. He said they need to realize that the growth is not going to end and look for positive ways to address it. He stated, for instance, they need to look for developments that will provide entertainment opportunities for the city’s residents.

Council Member Scott asked, **“Besides public safety, transportation and growth, what other issues would you like to address as a Council Member?”**

Mr. Ross responded getting more people involved in the city. He stated looking at the number of residents versus the number who voted in the last election highlights the challenge they face. He

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said they need to get more people involved in their community and make more people aware of what goes on within the city.

Council Member Buster asked, **“Looking at all of the city departments, which ones would they seek additional funding for and why?”**

Mr. Ross said, not knowing the city’s budget, he would identify law enforcement as a key area for additional funding. He said it is also important that they continue to be able to provide needed services to Avondale’s growing community.

Council Member Lynch asked, **“Can you tell me what the Council’s vision, goals or objectives are for the city?”**

Mr. Ross said the city’s mission statement is to provide the community with the foresight of a growing community, to represent the community fairly, to have an understanding of the city’s plan and to make all decisions in the best interest of the community.

Vice Mayor Wolf asked, **“Given the following three topics important to protecting our future as a city; transportation planning, economic development planning and implementation, and maintaining a high quality of life for citizens, which do you feel is most critical and what would you do as a Council member to have a positive affect on it?”**

Mr. Ross said maintaining a high quality of life is very important. He commented on the number of pennies he saw sitting in the fountain outside the city’s facility, stating they represent the wishes and dreams of the community. He stated he chose Avondale as his home and has enjoyed seeing Avondale grow. He said as a Council member he would keep the wishes of the community in mind and look at each request fairly and objectively.

Mayor Rogers then asked, **“As they work with other communities in the southwest region and west valley, how will your participation on the Council benefit the west valley’s diverse communities?”**

Mr. Ross stated he would work to maintain the established relationship and encourage the relationship to grow.

Candidate 10 – David Scanlon

Council Member Earp asked the applicant; **“What is the most critical issue facing Avondale today and what is your plan of action to address this issue?”**

Mr. Scanlon said planned use, explaining Avondale has great natural beauty and a lot of undeveloped riparian areas. He stated Avondale is also fortunate to have a downtown area which he would like to see become a vital area that attracts new businesses to Avondale. He stated he

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is pleased with Council's efforts to attract good businesses to the city. He emphasized the importance of infill development as well. He stated Avondale is and should stay a diverse community, with a housing stock that meets the needs of people in all stages of life and amenities that provide opportunities for recreation.

Council Member Scott asked, **"Besides public safety, transportation and growth, what other issues would you like to address as a Council Member?"**

Mr. Scanlon said he places a lot of importance on the diversity of the community. He said the community is and will continue to grow and he wants Avondale to retain its small town charm.

Council Member Buster asked, **"Looking at all of the city departments, which ones would they seek additional funding for and why?"**

Mr. Scanlon said he is not familiar with the city's budget, but will get into such issues if selected to serve on the Council.

Council Member Buster rephrased the question, **"What areas do you think need special emphasis?"**

Mr. Scanlon responded the city's amenities such as libraries and parks and recreation. He stated parks in older parts of the city are in disrepair compared to newer parks and it would be a mistake to let any part of the city remain in a state of disrepair.

Council Member Lynch noted Avondale has requested to be an entitlement city, which means it will receive CDBG funding directly from the federal government; hopefully increasing its share. She invited Mr. Scanlon to attend a meeting at the city's community center in early March.

Council Member Lynch asked, **"Can you tell me what the Council's vision, goals or objectives are for the city?"**

Mr. Scanlon said he read the city's plan and was struck by its mention of the riparian areas. He said one of his goals would be to preserve those areas by ensuring appropriate development. He stated transportation is another issue of great concern to residents, particularly in terms of the I-10 corridor.

Vice Mayor Wolf asked, **"Given the following three topics important to protecting our future as a city; transportation planning, economic development planning and implementation, and maintaining a high quality of life for citizens, which do you feel is most critical and what would you do as a Council member to have a positive affect on it?"**

Mr. Scanlon said a high quality of life is the most important issue. He stated, while transportation is certainly important and economic development derives quality of life, residents

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of the city expect the city to do what it can to promote a high quality of life. To that end, he reiterated his position that the city should designate additional funding for the improvement of its older parks and libraries.

Mayor Rogers then asked, **“As they work with other communities in the southwest region and west valley, how will your participation on the Council benefit the west valley’s diverse communities?”**

Mr. Scanlon said he has been a public official for over 15 years, serving on the School Board. He stated, from that service and through other activities, he knows many people in federal and state offices and county officials. He stated he understands the importance of pursuing and maintaining good relationships with others in the region.

Mayor Rogers explained that the City Council opted to meet in the Mojave Room because it is a more intimate and more comfortable setting for the person being interviewed because the Council Chambers are more intimidating. She explained that she has been in the City Council for ten years and that the Council has always done business this way. It has been an option that they have taken to always hold the meeting in tribune and then go into executive session. Several council members have been appointed this way including Vice Mayor Wolf and it had never been a question. She indicated she did not know why it has become a question lately and added that this is about people, and the Council wants to discuss the merits of each candidate. She indicated that she wanted to let the people know that the Council will look at each candidate as persons and not machines that will do the work for them. Unless there were comments from anyone else, she would like to move forward.

Council Member Lynch indicated that unless any of the candidates in attendance objected, she moved to hold the session in open session. Council Member Buster seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Mayor Wolf said the Council has had an opportunity to review the information packets received from the candidates and to hear each candidates’ responses to the questions asked during tonight’s interview. He suggested they reduce the field of discussion by going through a series of nominations for consideration for each candidate.

Vice Mayor Wolf moved to consider Stephanie Karlin for nomination to City Council. Council Member Earp seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4 to 2. Council Members Lynch and Vice Mayor Wolf voted naye.

Vice Mayor Wolf moved to consider Linda Webster for nomination to City Council. Council Member Scott seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 2 to 4. Council Members Earp, Lynch, Vice Mayor Wolf and Mayor Rogers voted naye.

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Vice Mayor Wolf moved to consider Joel Gorbett for nomination to City Council. Council Member Earp seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 2 to 4. Council Members Earp, Scott, Lynch and Vice Mayor Wolf voted naye.

Vice Mayor Wolf moved to consider Jim Smith for nomination to City Council. Council Member Earp seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 1 to 5. Council Members Earp, Buster, Lynch, Vice Mayor Wolf and Mayor Rogers voted naye.

Vice Mayor Wolf moved to consider Alan Lageschulte for nomination to City Council. Council Member Lynch seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 2 to 4. Council Members Earp, Scott, Vice Mayor Wolf and Mayor Rogers voted naye.

Vice Mayor Wolf moved to consider Ken Weise for nomination to City Council. Council Member Earp seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Mayor Wolf moved to consider Gail Leitner for nomination to City Council. Council Member Earp seconded the motion. The motion failed by unanimous vote.

Vice Mayor Wolf moved to consider Mark Moyle for nomination to City Council. Council Member Buster seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 1 to 5. Council Members Earp, Scott, Lynch, Vice Mayor Wolf and Mayor Rogers voted naye.

Vice Mayor Wolf moved to consider Craig Ross for nomination to City Council. Council Member Earp seconded the motion. The motion failed by unanimous vote.

Vice Mayor Wolf moved to consider David Scanlon for nomination to City Council. Council Member Earp seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Earp thanked all of the applicants and encouraged those who already serve the city on Boards and Commissions to continue to do so if they are not selected to serve on the Council. He invited those who do not currently serve on a city Board or Commission to consider participating. He said Mr. Weise has served on the City's Charter Review Committee and knows the city very well. He stated Mr. Weise's answers were very thoughtful and demonstrated his level of preparedness for the interview. He expressed his opinion Mr. Weise would be a great asset to the Council and City.

Council Member Earp moved to appoint Ken Weise to City Council. Council Member Lynch seconded the motion.

Council Member Lynch said it is very clear that Mr. Weise is very familiar with the city since he was able to not only identify the Council's goals, but to speak about the South Mountain Freeway and other neighborhood issues. She stated Mr. Weise will bring unique assets to the

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Council. She congratulated Mr. Weise for purchasing a home in Roosevelt Park, stating it is such a unique development that other communities will look at Avondale with envy.

Council Member Buster applauded the Council for their decision to make their decision in an open forum. He stated, while it is not always easy to sit in the audience as people vote on your merits, he is impressed with the quality of the candidates. He agreed Mr. Weise has been involved and is clearly knowledgeable about the issues in the city.

Vice Mayor Wolf commended the applicants for their dedication and care, stating they all represent the kind of people they want engaged in the City of Avondale. He strongly recommended those not currently serving on a Board or Commission to do so and encouraged those who do to continue their participation.

Mayor Rogers commented it is difficult to select a candidate when they are all so fully qualified and considered friends and neighbors. She thanked the applicants for the time and effort they put into applying. She said it has always been and will always be about the residents.

ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:

Council Member Earp	Aye
Council Member Scott	Aye
Council Member Buster	Aye
Mayor Rogers	Aye
Vice Mayor Wolf	Aye
Council Member Lynch	Aye
Vacant Position	

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Vice Mayor Wolf moved to adjourn. Council Member Earp seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



Linda M. Farris, CMC
City Clerk

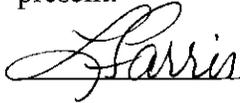


Mayor Rogers

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CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the special meeting of the City Council of the City of Avondale held on the 30th day of January, 2006. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that the quorum was present.



City Clerk

