

Minutes of the Special Meeting held April 14, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mayor Lopez Rogers and Council Members

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

**ALSO PRESENT**

David Fitzhugh, Acting City Manager  
Gina Montes, Assistant City Manager  
Kevin Artz, Finance and Budget Director  
Rob Lloyd, Chief Information Officer  
Pier Simeri, Community Relations and Public Affairs Director  
Kristen Sexton, Transit Coordinator  
Charles Andrews, City Engineer  
Janice Simpson, Grants Coordinator  
Abril Ruiz-Ortega, Court Administrator  
Paul Adams, Fire Chief  
Christopher Reams, Director of Parks, Recreation and Libraries  
Tracy Stevens, Development & Engineering Services Director  
Andrew McGuire, City Attorney  
Carmen Martinez, City Clerk

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

**2 UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

There were no unscheduled public appearances.

**3 PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT FEES**

Kevin Artz, Finance and Budget Director, reported receiving letters from Evergreen Development and Valley Partnership, and a phone call from Carolyn Oberholtzer representing Red Development on this issue. The three parties requested that the City of Avondale consider not implementing the maximum justifiable development impact fees.

Mayor Rogers inquired whether the City had the ability to make up revenue that would be lost from reducing fees. Mr. Artz responded that if the maximum fee is not adopted, the City would have to use local revenues such as the unrestricted General Fund or sales tax, to subsidize some capital projects. The City has historically transferred General Fund money into capital project funds to help cover past deficits. By using local money to cover growth related projects, some non-growth related projects would have to be postponed or canceled.

Mayor Rogers inquired about the impact of development fees on Avondale's competitiveness. Economic Development Director Dan Davis explained that developers always consider the cost of building in a community, and are very sensitive to the price point for residential or commercial development fees. It is difficult to compare cities directly, since each has different infrastructure needs which are reflected in their fee schedules. Mayor

Rogers noted that uncompetitive fees could have an impact on the goal of developing City Center. Mr. Davis said the City Council has strategically invested in infrastructure projects in City Center that help make it an attractive area to build because it removes those costs from the development ledger, but builders are also influenced by a variety of topics when deciding where to invest, and regional competitiveness is strong. Mr. Artz added that Goodyear has an additional 1% construction sales tax that Avondale does not. Phoenix's sewer infrastructure is significantly ahead, which means Avondale's sewer fees have to cover the cost of expanding wastewater treatment capacity.

Council Member McDonald said infrastructure must pay for itself. The City has to collect the money that pays for the infrastructure being built. He said he wants builders to be able to make money, but not at the City's expense. All citizens should not have to pay for new development because the developers do not want to. Part of the development fees are to pay for infrastructure that the City has already put in place. This makes it easier for developers to come to market faster. He felt Avondale should set the rate at whatever amount pays for the infrastructure.

Council Member Weise said he understands the concerns of the development community, but land costs have a much bigger influence on profits. Avondale provides water and sewer to all residents and there is a cost to doing that. City Council made a decision to focus on commercial and industrial development, and that policy has been very successful. Residential growth will not bypass Avondale. Developers will go where they can sell homes at a profit. Developers have always tried to emphasize what they feel can and cannot work, but Avondale has proven them wrong every time.

Vice Mayor Scott said he campaigned on the position that growth must pay for itself. Fees should cover the cost of infrastructure. Goodyear does not provide water and sewer for nearly half their population. No other city in the southwest Valley compares exactly to Avondale. City Council should be open to listening to developers' offers, but he questioned the argument that Avondale has to lower fees to get people to come here. The wastewater treatment plant is an expensive project.

Council Member Vierhout agreed with the previous comments that development should pay for itself. Existing residents should not have to pay for the costs of the new residents. The developers lobbied the legislature to set existing limits on fees, but they want even more now. Cities should not race each other to the bottom. If Avondale lowers rates, then all the other cities would be pressured to follow. The fees are fair, and will ultimately be passed on to the homeowners. Builders will not be losing money.

Council Member Kilgore stated that new growth should pay for itself. Avondale made that decision long ago. Council Member Karlin said City Council has addressed this issue many times before. Developers have long argued that Avondale cannot attract better quality projects. They do not live in the community however, and having made their money, they leave. Existing residents have to deal with the repercussions of inadequate infrastructure. City Council has the responsibility to see that the city grows the way it is envisioned to grow. Avondale should move forward with the current proposal.

Mayor Rogers opened the public hearing. There being no requests to speak, she closed the public hearing.

Mayor Rogers summarized that City Council is willing to be patient. Mr. Fitzhugh said staff would return on May 19 with the fee proposal for Council action.

#### **4 FY 2015/15 – BUDGET WORK SESSION**

Acting City Manager David Fitzhugh presented the proposed budget plan for fiscal year 2014/15, which totals \$171,212,890. Revenues improved in the past year, which provides the opportunity to consider the needs of departments that have had to defer budget items over the past several years.

In December, City Council set several goals and objectives. Mr. Fitzhugh summarized some of the most notable. In economic development efforts, Council wishes to continue working on developing the medical technology, youth and amateur sports sectors. Council also wants to build on successes in neighborhood and community issues and projects. Staff retention is very important. In terms of environmental leadership, a prime focus is the Green Waste Pilot Program. The Street Maintenance and Replacement Program will map out Avondale's future streets infrastructure. As for quality of life, the Friendship Park and Festival Fields projects will be coming forward shortly. Avondale has been actively engaged with Phoenix International Raceway on their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. The City will always work with public safety to ensure they have the tools necessary to do their job.

Mr. Fitzhugh stated that moderate revenue growth allows Avondale to address some existing service improvements. The budget includes no new full time positions, but does include a 4% salary wage adjustment. Three percent is merit based and requires that employees meet certain standards, and 1% is reserved to be utilized at the discretion of department heads to recognize exemplary employees. The budget includes a supplemental increase request of \$5.8 million across all funds. The General Fund will have about \$870,000 in ongoing supplementals. There is an employee compensation benefits increase of \$1.5 million. About \$2.1 million covers equipment purchases within the departments. An \$8.6 million transfer to the CIP from the General Fund will go towards capital projects.

Mr. Artz reviewed leading economic indicators, noting that expenditures are exceeding revenues through February, but the current budget is spending down fund balance, and the contingency funds were spent this year on the PIR Building purchase. Economic indicators comparing February 2013 to February 2014 show that the consumer price index is down significantly. The national unemployment rate is also down significantly from 7.7% to 6.7%. Jobs grew nationally by 175,000. Arizona's unemployment rate dropped from 8% to 7.3%, and 17,300 jobs were added. State shared revenues have grown. The City's sales tax collections have seen positive growth over nearly every month in the past three years, but they are still significantly below where they were in 2007.

Mr. Artz said revenue assumptions for the proposed budget project a 4.5% increase in the sales tax collections, a 5% increase in state shared sales tax, and a 7.5% increase in the income tax. The total General Fund projects a 5.2% increase in total revenue. In comparing last year's budget to this year's, the operating budget currently is under \$82 million, and is

projected at \$79.6 million without the supplementals. Supplementals are additions to the base budget, on an ongoing or one-time basis. Debt service obligations are down almost \$5.5 million from last year. The total budget is going from \$174 million currently, to \$179 million for FY 2014/15. The majority of the budget goes to Public Works, which receives 22%. Police receives almost 18%, and Fire 9%. The majority of the General Fund goes to personal services, personnel costs, and salaries and benefits. Thirty-three percent goes to contractual services.

Council Member McDonald recalled that City Council directed a maximum employee raise of 3%, but gave the directors the discretion to overcompensate some outstanding employees. Mr. Fitzhugh clarified that the City Council report from the December 9 meeting directed staff to provide a total salary increase package in the 3% to 5% range, and allowed department heads discretion on distribution of increases for non-represented groups. The increases are not applied across the board. Employees must perform to a certain level in order to get the 3% merit increase. The 1% extra is to reward extraordinary employees.

Vice Mayor Scott inquired about healthcare costs. Mr. Fitzhugh said the actual costs have not been determined yet, but they will be less than the 10% increase that was budgeted. Vice Mayor Scott noted that the budget for City Council doubled in seven years.

Following Mr. Artz's summary, each Director presented their department's budget. For City Council, the total budget is \$287,000, almost three quarters of which are for personal services. There are no supplemental requests.

Mr. Fitzhugh said the City Administration budget for base operations is \$1.6 million. The carryover from the current year is \$79,000. The total budget is \$1.686 million. The Administration has been working to see the medical corridor on McDowell Road come to fruition, and some positive results were achieved this year. The branding effort will help define Avondale. Employee development is an important part of staff retention. Financial stability is a priority. The Regional Transit Center was completed at City Hall. Community events have been expanded wherever possible at limited cost. Station 174 opened this year, and nine employees have been hired. Upgraded equipment was provided to Police and Fire.

Objectives for the upcoming year are to continue attracting viable, sound employers. Another focus is to explore concepts regarding expanded community uses for the Randall McDaniel Sports Center. BRT service to the City Center Transit Center should be finalized by fall 2014. The department is requesting about \$101,000 for City Attorney services, and for a dues increase associated with Maricopa County emergency management.

Rob Lloyd, CIO Director, presented the budget request for Information Technology. The City has made good progress on its IT investment. Technology and communications for citizens and employees in the field has improved. Customer satisfaction has been high. A focus on internal efficiencies and effectiveness has created a stable environment with low downtime. IT invests technology in support of City Council's goals. Avondale earned first place in the Digital Cities of America event in 2013, and received an honorable mention in the Digital Government Achievement Awards for the Angel Voice solution.

Mr. Lloyd outlined IT's key objectives for the next fiscal year, which include partnering with Economic Development in recruiting employers to Avondale, and working with peer local governments on improved regional communications and joint procurement. IT strives to reduce energy consumption and technology-related waste. IT helps Public Works monitor utilities in the field so they can be managed more effectively. The IT Security Assessment was conducted in conjunction with four other cities, and will help the City perceive threats and respond quickly should any breaches occur. The new PCI and Risk Management System will help better manage resources. In terms of quality of life, IT works to ensure that the customer service experience is as good as possible. Staff retention in IT can be a challenge, but the City focuses on providing an environment that promises high growth, good performance management, and feedback.

Mr. Lloyd said IT has three supplemental requests. The current communications tower is over ten years old, was from a home kit, and is rusting. A one-time expense would buy a new tower that should last 20 years. The GIS Division would be moved into IT so they can pay for the licenses required to run the program. Additional software costs were required to equip new employees with the tools necessary to do their job.

Council Member McDonald asked whether it would be more cost-effective for staff to take on more of the maintenance and upgrade tasks. Mr. Lloyd explained that over the past three years, IT has taken on more of an ownership philosophy, and is spending less on consultants. This gives staff a better understanding of the systems and reduces incremental costs. When it comes to upgrading, IT uses a leapfrog approach, adopting new releases once they have been proven stable.

Council Member Vierhout inquired about significant upcoming equipment replacement necessities. Mr. Lloyd responded that the Technology Replacement Fund was restructured around engineered life, and categorized so that each technology type lands in its own increment. This avoids the need for big one-time purchases and provides staff with the flexibility to take a different design approach if needed. Finance provides the guidance to ensure that the Infrastructure Systems Plan is covered. Council Member Vierhout inquired about data retention. Mr. Lloyd said IT has been working with storage and virtualization vendors to cover the City in the event of a disaster. Storage needs continue to grow as video data increases dramatically. The Police have strict rules regarding evidence, which poses long-term storage challenges.

Pier Simeri, Community Relations and Public Affairs Director, said 2013 was a busy year for her department. The key project was the Avondale branding effort, which will define the city for the rest of the world. The past year was used to reach out to the public to find out what citizens thought of the community's present and future. The new branding initiative will be launched in May. Market test results have been very positive. Special events like Tale of Two Cities continue to grow. Resident Appreciation Night and City Hall Comes to You help staff understand resident needs and desires for the budget process. Historic Avondale has hosted many successful events. Citizens Academy continues to be popular. Avondale won three CMA Savvy Awards in 2013. Mayor Rogers was recognized for her leadership in the Best of the West Awards. ZOOM ridership is increasing.

Ms. Simeri stated that the key objectives for the upcoming year include advocating for legislative bills that positively impact Avondale. The express transit service from the new transit center will launch in the fall. Community engagement efforts in public information and marketing will continue to evolve. Adjustments are necessary to account for membership dues increases. A grants management system will provide a more streamlined approach to grants research. Additional staff needs to be trained. Broadcast equipment for the cable channel is old and needs to be replaced. The new equipment will allow broadcasts to also be integrated into the City website.

Kristen Sexton, Transit Coordinator, explained that several of the supplemental requests for transit operations are not new, but instead of making General Fund transfers, as in the past, they are now being budgeted directly. The ZOOM circulator costs about \$1 million per year, and the federal government pays for half of it. This is the last year that Goodyear and Tolleson will pay Avondale for providing ADA Dial-a-Ride services. Arizona Lottery funds will help pay for express bus service and transit center shade structures, which will be solar ready and can be easily moved as the facility evolves.

In response to an inquiry from Council Member Weise, Ms. Sexton explained that Valley Metro is taking a holistic approach to express bus service in the Southwest Valley, which will affect park-and-rides at 79<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Goodyear, and Buckeye. At least four trips are planned out of the transit center, which will result in high usage. Council Member Weise questioned whether the Facebook analytics should be best handled by IT. Ms. Simeri explained that Avondale uses a hybrid approach between technology and social media analytics.

Vice Mayor Scott asked whether the Intergovernmental Affairs Manager would be upgraded to a Department Head level. Mr. Fitzhugh said that option is under consideration, along with several others. The primary focus is to find somebody as highly qualified as possible who can pick up where Shirley Gunther left off. Vice Mayor Scott said he wants somebody in that position who will have the autonomy to deal with the City Council directly. It is a very Council-oriented position that should stand by itself. Mr. Fitzhugh noted that the IGA position has many different functions that need to be understood before a final decision is made. While he is leaning towards making it a separate department, he noted that Avondale already has 15 departments, which is substantial for a city its size.

Mayor Rogers said the IGA has to be a coordinator between City departments. The job doesn't stop when the legislature is out of session, since they have to be talking to the legislators all year long to find out what they are going to be working on next year. It would be most helpful for City Council to have someone who can work with each department and with City Council to help the City navigate the political system.

Vice Mayor Scott inquired if the money spent on shade structures could be used for something else. Ms. Sexton said it has to be used for transit. People have been interested in parking at the transit center, but without shade its appeal will be limited.

Council Member Vierhout said he recently rode the full ZOOM route and spoke with riders he met. The new silver buses are popular. Some riders use it every day. He learned that many of the riders are from outside of Avondale. They connect with ZOOM from some

outside point, do business in Avondale, and then return the way they came. He said he likes the shade structures, but hoped that they would have solar panels. City Engineer Charles Andrews explained that the structures will be able to carry solar panel loads, but minimal trenching will be necessary to connect to the power grid. Council Member Vierhout said managing the Facebook page content is a PIO position, but the analytics from Facebook is more appropriate for a data person in the IT department.

Council Member McDonald inquired about efforts to let people know about information that is being made available about Avondale through Facebook. Ms. Simeri said she has information to share with City Council at a future meeting regarding the use of social media analytics. The Facebook page is promoted through publications like Rave, at special events, and by passing out information cards.

Council Member McDonald inquired about grant management expenses. Janice Simpson, Grants Coordinator, explained the \$60,000 that Council approved earlier is for a grant management system, while the \$5,000 supplement is for a limited three-user license for a grant research tool that will complement the system. Staff negotiated with the vendor to get a drastically reduced price in return for this limitation. Council Member McDonald inquired about the express bus service. Ms. Sexton explained that it will begin in October of 2014. There will be four trips into Phoenix and four trips back out each day.

Council Member Karlin opined that the IGA has to be a separate department. Avondale has been very active with the League of Cities, Greater Phoenix Economic Council, and in Washington, D.C. Relationships have been developed. Avondale is considered a leader among Arizona cities. A separate IGA department would be better able to liaise between departments, City Council and the outside world. It would be a good place to put the grants office as well. Mr. Fitzhugh said he understands the City Council's position. He will have to take a complete look at the circumstances surrounding the IGA before he can make a decision on how to organize staff in a way that accomplishes what Council needs, while providing the best return on investment in terms of money and personnel.

Council Member Kilgore said Community Relations is making good connections with people who are social media savvy. Even non-residents are excited about what is happening in Avondale. He felt the branding effort would help increase Avondale's Facebook presence, and the City could generate revenue through the online store. He proposed that the City offer a social media internship. Ms. Simeri responded that staff is discussing that idea with Estrella Mountain Community College (EMCC). The branding initiative will include a component to increase community engagement, beyond just providing information.

Kevin Artz presented the budget request for the Finance and Budget Department. The total budget is just over \$2.1 million, and 72% of that goes towards personnel costs. Key accomplishments include the refinancing of \$9.2 million of excise tax debt, which saved the City \$364,000. About \$250,000 of additional investment has been generated from the City's investment funds. The Department has received a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting and the Distinguished Budget Award. The City is in the process of updating development fees. The City's bond ratings are all in the AA category, which indicates a strong capacity to repay debt obligations.

Mr. Artz said the objectives for the upcoming year are to continue sound financial policies in an effort to maintain the bond rating and sustain long term stability, prepare a balanced budget that meets Council objectives, and to implement an e-billing option for the utilities. Finance has one supplemental request for \$500,000 to cover the attorney cost/settlement amount related to the Build America Bonds audit being conducted by the IRS.

Vice Mayor Scott inquired about the City's audit contract. Mr. Artz responded that Avondale went through the procurement process two years ago for a one-year contract with four renewal options. The parties are two years into that agreement, and three options are left. Avondale currently contracts with Henry and Horne LLP, a local firm. Vice Mayor Scott commended Mr. Artz for running a professional operation that makes the City look good.

Council Member Vierhout asked about the water deposits. Mr. Artz said before the deposits were implemented three years ago, the City had about \$400,000 in delinquencies. In the last fiscal year, delinquencies were down to \$123,000. The policy has had a significant impact on reducing delinquencies. The total outstanding balance is down to about \$600,000. Remaining delinquencies have to be written off through the audit. Council Member Weise and Mayor Rogers thanked Finance for being fair and frank with Council.

Abril Ruiz-Ortega, Court Administrator, presented a budget of \$1.5 million, 77% of which is for personal services. The City Court participated in Stand Down for Veterans and the Regional Homeless Program. These programs help homeless and at risk veterans to resolve outstanding issues. Almost \$86,000 was collected through the Tax Intercept Program. The Court was compliant with foreign language and sign language interpretation requirements.

Ms. Ruiz-Ortega outlined key objectives. The Court is committed to providing justice to all, instilling public trust and confidence in the judiciary through accountability, transparency, and efficiency. Technology will be used to enhance court processes and expand services. Partnership opportunities with other departments and courts will continue. A court tools online survey will be implemented to ensure timely resolution of cases. The Court will continue to use best practices in an effort to improve case processing standards and enforce court orders. Another goal is to continue to ensure confidence in the judiciary and city government by maintaining compliance with Supreme Court administrative orders.

Ms. Ruiz-Ortega presented several supplemental requests from three different funding sources. Funds appropriated from the Court Enhancement Fund would be used to ensure that Avondale is compliant with unfunded mandates from the state legislature. JCEF payments would be used for a temporary, grant funded Court Clerk III position. The third supplemental covers tuition costs for the ICM Program, which will be used to assess court staff levels and workload distribution. Council Member Vierhout requested information on order of protection trends for the past five years. Vice Mayor Scott said the Court is well run and fair. Mayor Rogers said she has always received good comments regarding the City Court.

Paul Adams, Fire Chief, requested that Avondale Fire and Rescue change its name to Avondale Fire and Medical, which is more reflective of what today's service really does. This name change will tie into the City's rebranding effort as well.

Chief Adams said the biggest accomplishment last year was the opening of Fire Station 174 and the hiring of 15 new personnel. The increased use of tablet technology has improved fire prevention efforts. The department has enhanced its ability to interact with the business community. He thanked City Council for allowing the Department to maintain fire prevention staff at current levels.

Chief Adams stated his objectives for the upcoming year. The department will continue to employ new technology to improve operations, and is looking to implement a paramedicine program. Staff is exploring joint ventures with other agencies and partners in the healthcare industry to a much higher degree than in the past. The supplemental increases relate to the operation of Station 174, uniform allowances, thermal imaging cameras, and to cover the increased cost of vehicle replacement and annual physicals.

Mayor Rogers inquired about the new medical training. Chief Adams explained that the role of the paramedic training is not changing, just how it is applied in the field. Related technology is also changing rapidly. Community paramedics are taking on a more active post-release role. With recent changes in healthcare, including those brought about by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), there will be a lot more interaction in the field that will prevent people from having to go to a hospital or urgent care facility. Mr. Fitzhugh said staff is trying to fully understand the impact that the ACA will have on City operations, finances, and safety, and will prepare a full report once findings are available.

Council Member Weise said Station 174 will be important for north Avondale. Cities that close stations are making a big mistake. He noted that Phoenix has to replace 9,000 residential lockboxes because a set of keys went missing. Chief Adams said tracking keys is a very high priority.

Christopher Reams, Director of Parks, Recreation and Libraries, said 57% of the department budget is contractual services. Accomplishments include the first annual Food for Library Fines Program, two new Little Libraries were opened for neighborhood book sharing, facility energy savings of 7% were realized, and neon lights are being replaced. The Mayor's Golf Challenge raised more than \$16,000 for the Boys and Girls Club. A Special Olympics basketball tournament drew over 144 athletes. The use of temporary fencing is making fields more flexible to accommodate a wider variety of tournaments. The Out and About Series has been very successful and more sponsors are asking to become involved.

Mr. Reams highlighted objectives for the upcoming year. Facilities will continue to be upgraded to improve efficiency when possible, and keep maintenance standards up. Park open space will be enhanced. EMCC will help create a space in the library where students can access classes that will help them develop businesses.

Mr. Reams reviewed the department supplementals to cover vehicle replacement costs, the Siemens mechanical contract for Civic Center, Western Avenue Holiday Lights, and gopher control. The Facility Replacement Fund will be used to proactively replace facility related items according to a set schedule, rather than react to needs on a piecemeal basis. Similarly, the City Park Play Place Replacement fund will be used to keep parks well maintained. The Crystal Gardens metal border will be replaced in phases. Event message

boards need replacing. The Community Events Fund covers smaller events that are not part of Out and About.

Council Member Karlin asked whether holiday lights could be used for Art Walks. Mr. Reams confirmed that they could. Council Member Vierhout said using refresh cycles to get ahead of maintenance problems instead of reacting to them, is a good strategy. Council Member McDonald inquired why the Play Space maintenance was only a one-time cost. Mr. Reams explained that it is designed to meet an immediate need and the replacement equipment will last a long time. Council Member Kilgore said the fields are well maintained and staff is doing a good job.

Tracy Stevens, Development & Engineering Services Director, said the department budget is just over \$5.6 million, 55% of which is for personal services, and 35% is contractual. Accomplishments over the past year included receiving the Crescordia from the Arizona Forward Environmental Excellence Awards for the Solar Demonstration Project, and the Merit Award for General Plan 2030. The City adopted the Freeway Corridor Specific Plan and the North Avondale Specific Plan updates. The City Center Transit Center project was completed and will open in October. The Public Safety facility buildout was completed on time and on budget. Plan review time frames have been reduced to 34 working days. The 2012 International Building Codes were adopted. The Maintenance Improvement District policy will go into effect soon. The over-the-counter plan review service has been successful. The Accela Electronic Document Review System implementation is almost finished. Traffic signals have been upgraded citywide. Thirty-six miles of streets were striped. Plan Review Construction Management and Inspection services continue for CIP and private development.

Ms. Stevens said in the next fiscal year, the department will continue to promote the freeway corridor development and the transit center. Branding efforts will be implemented, particularly at gateways. Staff will continue to expand public participation efforts for new projects. Plan review support services will be expanded for special events. Roadway designs will incorporate multi-modal options. The Neighborhood Circulation Mitigation Plan alternatives will be prepared, and a non-emergency incident response group procedure will be enhanced.

Ms. Stevens said Development Services has seven supplemental requests. The wayfinding sign program is in line with the branding effort and will enhance circulation and safety. Other supplementals cover contract inspections, consulting services for Historic Avondale, replacement of illuminated street name signs, and increased electricity costs. Tolleson will provide funding to offset the traffic engineering services provided by Avondale. The Streetlight Replacement Program is a new long-term preventative maintenance program.

Council Member Weise said the Streetlight Replacement Program is long overdue. He proposed using LED conversion kits as streetlights are replaced. He felt that cities should contract out as much work as possible so long as it makes sense. Council Member Kilgore said the wayfinding signs will do much to help visitors find their way around, and highlight the city's points of pride. Mayor Rogers described the developer breakfast as beneficial, and proposed a follow up discussion. She felt the City's participation in MAG committees is important.

Mr. Fitzhugh said the budget discussion will continue on April 28 with Human Resources, City Clerk, Police, Economic Development, Neighborhood and Family Services, and Public Works. City Council will also review the Capital Improvement Program.

**5 ADJOURNMENT**

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

City Council meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Lopez Rogers

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carmen Martinez  
City Clerk

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council of the City of Avondale held on the 14th day of April. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that the quorum was present.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carmen Martinez  
City Clerk