

Minutes of the Work Session held April 21, 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  
Charles Vierhout  
Ken Weise

**ABSENCE EXCUSED**

Council Member Jim McDonald

**ALSO PRESENT**

David Fitzhugh, Acting City Manager  
Gina Montes, Assistant City Manager  
Tracy Stevens, Development and Engineering Services Director  
Daniel Culotta, Environmental Program Manager  
Dana Chamberlin, Traffic Engineer  
Police Chief Dale Nannenga  
Nicholle Harris, City Attorney  
Carmen Martinez, City Clerk

**1 ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK**

**2 MUNICIPAL SUSTAINABILITY PLAN (MSP)**

Daniel Culotta, Environmental Program Manager, provided a summary of the draft Municipal Sustainability Plan (MSP). Sustainability is an approach that uses economic vitality, social well-being and ecological integrity as equal parts of the same interconnected system. Cities use sustainability practices to guide planning and actions and create patterns of behavior and resource use that give present and future generations the ability to survive and thrive. The plan's scope involves City organizations, facilities, policies, and practices. The plan is based on a three-part framework: current state assessment, vision and goals, and implementation. Thirty-two interviews were conducted throughout the City organization, identifying 125 current sustainability actions occurring in eleven impact areas. Each impact area was assessed and rated. A vision statement and nine long-term goals were developed based on input from staff, the Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Commission (EENRC), residents, and City Council.

Mr. Culotta stated that each impact area has its own set of strategies, actions, and goals. Transportation, for example, has strategies related to the types and numbers of vehicles used, how they are driven, and the types of modes enabled. The plan offers a great deal of breadth and flexibility, while still being specific. Initial priorities are focused on information gathering to ensure that chosen actions will work. Current operations are analyzed to identify efficiency improvements. Actions with strong returns on investment are prioritized, since they can start generating savings immediately. The Sustainability Working Group will include representatives from each City department, who will meet to discuss actions for the upcoming year.

Mr. Culotta explained the timeline for the MSP. City Council will have the opportunity to provide input through May. In June, there will be another work session to review the final draft. Council will vote on adoption in August.

Council Member Weise noted that many cities are using compressed natural gas (CNG) instead of liquefied natural gas (LNG) for city vehicles. Mr. Culotta said cities have a choice of many different strategies to use. For larger fleet vehicles, other cities have considered CNG, but the infrastructure costs can be very expensive. Mesa successfully converted their entire school bus fleet to propane. Emergency services are typically the last to convert. Avondale has significant opportunities to reduce waste with larger fleet vehicles, which currently average about six miles per gallon. Council Member Weise proposed that Avondale consider a shared CNG facility, splitting the cost with neighboring cities. CNG vehicles are cheaper to maintain than diesel vehicles, and cleaner.

Council Member Karlin said the plan appropriately recognizes that sustainability must be constantly monitored. She expressed concern that ecosystems rank much lower as an action priority than procurement does. City Council would benefit from current state assessments that occur twice per year. She inquired about the website presence. Mr. Culotta said the plan will be posted on the website once adopted. It will show residents of Avondale and other cities what the organization is doing, and help foster partnerships and information sharing.

Council Member Vierhout agreed that a regional approach to CNG infrastructure is a good idea. The cost of using LED bulbs is much lower than fluorescents, but it would require equipment changes first. Mr. Culotta said staff has not looked at LED retrofits for buildings, but street lights have been converted. When the time comes to look at building retrofits, staff will conduct a thorough assessment to determine the return on investment. Council Member Vierhout requested an update on the green recycling pilot program.

Mayor Rogers inquired whether the annexation of Wigwam Creek South would impact the goal of becoming net zero for water use. Mr. Culotta responded that the new area will increase water withdrawals from the aquifer, but Avondale has one of the largest water banks in the Valley, which should make a full recharge possible even with the annexation. Mayor Rogers inquired about sustainability efforts in relation to housing restoration in Historic Avondale. Mr. Culotta said staff can help provide residents with information on creating sustainable homes that are healthy, safe, efficient, and cost-effective.

Mayor Rogers requested an explanation for how local and unique establishments improve sustainability. Mr. Culotta explained that a strong and stable local economy circulates among local residents, builds pride and ownership, helps create an identity, and results in a greater focus on local sustainability. Mayor Rogers asked about long-term funding. Mr. Culotta responded that the short-term focus on high ROI initiatives is meant to build momentum, and the money saved from efficiencies could be applied as seed money for other initiatives.

David Fitzhugh, Acting City Manager, said the MSP is being integrated into everything the City does. Departments are being asked to think about sustainability as they put their programs and services together.

### 3 AVONDALE TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM

Dana Chamberlin, Traffic Engineer, presented the Traffic Safety Program (TSP) being developed with the assistance of Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). The intent is to improve traffic safety in Avondale in anticipation of federal legislation. The plan provides a specific framework for moving forward, rather than relying on the ad hoc approach used in the past.

Ms. Chamberlin said TSP works to make all modes of transportation safer in Avondale. Engineering wants to be proactive instead of reactionary when it comes to identifying safety-related projects. Safety improvements can either be enhancements to existing projects or included in the CIP. Information will be used to make decisions on a project level. MAP-21 requires the Federal Highway Administration to establish measures to assess performance in 12 areas, and TSP will help Avondale stay ahead of that legislation. The TSP establishes ways to check progress and report on results transparently. This program will make Avondale more competitive for transportation safety funds as they become available.

Ms. Chamberlin said staff is currently collecting traffic count data, which will be done by May. Standards are being updated to incorporate new federal and state regulations. Avondale was recently awarded \$1.1 million in federal funds. Some of the money will be used on software to consolidate crash-related data from a number of different agencies in a way that guides improvements.

Council Member Vierhout asked whether the crash data shows the number of incidents that occur traveling in a particular direction through each intersection. Ms. Chamberlin said the current program does not accommodate that functionality, but the crash analysis software made possible by the safety grant will offer much more detail. The information can reveal crash patterns, which is the first step in finding solutions for particular locations. Council Member Vierhout suggested that the traffic crash map be published in the RAVE.

Council Member Weise noted that the top four problem intersections are on Dysart Road, and he requested more information to find out why. The focus has to be on improving that road. Police Chief Dale Nannenga said when the City had red light cameras, there were actually more accidents on Dysart, but construction was occurring at the time as well. Ms. Chamberlin said it is typical for accidents to increase at intersections with cameras because people stop suddenly to avoid tickets.

Council Member Karlin noted that years ago Avondale hired a consultant to study Dysart Road, and their recommendations might still be viable today. In response to an inquiry from Mayor Rogers, Ms. Chamberlin said federal performance measures require states to put money into transportation safety projects exclusively if they do not meet performance measure goals. This creates a huge incentive for the state to ensure that transportation safety is being looked at.

**4 ADJOURNMENT**

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

City Council meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

  
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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 Work Session of the Council of the City of Avondale held on the 21st day of April. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that the quorum was present.

  
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Carmen Martinez  
City Clerk

Minutes of the Regular Meeting held April 21, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mayor Lopez Rogers and Council Members

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

**ABSENT/EXCUSED**

Council Member Jim McDonald

**ALSO PRESENT**

David Fitzhugh, Acting City Manager  
Gina Montes, Assistant City Manager  
Stephanie Small, Neighborhood and Family Services 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 CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**a. Promotion - Stephanie Small, Neighborhood and Family Services Director**

Acting City Manager David Fitzhugh announced the promotion of Stephanie Small to the position of Director of the Neighborhood and Family Services Department. Ms. Small thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve the city in this capacity.

**3 UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

There were no requests to address the Council.

**4 CONSENT AGENDA**

Items on the consent agenda are of a routine nature or have been previously studied by the City Council at a work session. They are intended to be acted upon in one motion. Council members may pull items from consent if they would like them considered separately.

**a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Work Session of April 7, 2014
2. Regular Meeting of April 7, 2014

**b. COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT - WESTERN STATES FIRE EQUIPMENT**

A request to approve a cooperative purchasing agreement with Western States Fire Equipment for the purchase of nine thermal imaging cameras in a total amount of \$92,635.99, approve the transfer of funds from non-departmental to the fire department capital budget and authorize the Mayor or City Manager and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

**c. MINOR LAND DIVISION/LOT COMBINATION - NORTHEAST CORNER OF DYSART ROAD AND WESTERN AVENUE (PL-14-0060)**

A request for approval of a Minor Land Division/Lot Combination concerning City-owned property located at the northeast corner of Dysart Road and Western Avenue to consolidate two existing parcels into a single 1.16 acre parcel and dedicate right-of-way to accommodate the future construction of Dysart Road/Western Avenue sidewalk/intersection improvements, abandon portions of public utility easements located in the proposed new right-of-way, and dedicate a new power easement on the eastern boundary of the property needed to serve adjacent property.

**d. ORDINANCE 1543-414 - CONVEYANCE OF RIGHT-OF-WAY SOUTH OF BRINKER DRIVE AND EAST OF DYSART ROAD**

An ordinance authorizing the conveyance of certain real property generally located south of Brinker Drive and east of Dysart Road and authorize the Mayor or City Manager and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

Council Member Weise moved to approve the consent agenda as presented including Ordinance 1543-414. Council Member Vierhout seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:**

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

Motion carried 6-0.

**5 PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION 3179-414 - 2014-2015 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN**

A public hearing and a resolution approving the 2014-2015 Annual Action Plan portion of the 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan and authorize the Mayor or City Manager and City Clerk to take the steps necessary to submit the necessary documents for receipt of Community Development Block Grant Funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Acting City Manager Dave Fitzhugh indicated Council received a more in depth presentation regarding this item at the previous meeting. Tonight's recommendation is to hold a public hearing and adopt the resolution approving the annual action plan.

Council Member Weise commented that the CDBG program has allowed Avondale to do great things for its citizens that would not have been made possible without these funds. Council Member Karlin commented cities need these funds and is thanked the Council and the Neighborhood and Family Services Department for having the foresight and willingness to taking the funds and the responsibility to administer them to assist residents.

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

Council Member Weise moved to adopt Resolution 3179-414; Council Member Karlin seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:

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

Motion carried 6-0.

**6 RESOLUTION 3178-414 - INTERGOVERNMENT AGREEMENT - UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA**

A request to adopt a resolution authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with the University of Arizona, Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences, for an amount of \$14,960 to complete a data analysis and program evaluation of First Things First programs at the Care1st Avondale Resource and Housing Center and authorize the Mayor or City Manager, City Clerk and City Attorney to execute the necessary documents.

Acting City Manager Dave Fitzhugh introduced Stephanie Small, Neighborhood and Family Services Director to present this item.

Ms. Small indicated that the First Things First program started in 2009 and is considered a hub for social services in the west valley. It is made available through a private/public partnership between Care 1<sup>st</sup>, First Things First and the City of Avondale. She indicated that funding in the amount of \$175,000 was reapproved in April and is primarily geared to provide programming for children 0-5 such as kindergarten readiness, case management, brain development, vision and hearing screenings, etc. There are about 20 agencies providing services out of the center focused on education to about 4,800 to 5,000 people per month. She explained that the purpose of the evaluation is to determine whether through the partnerships established at the center the city is able to provide access to the variety of services that Avondale and West Valley residents need.

Ms. Small listed the community outreach activities provided at the center included car safety seats, VITA, health and resource fair, workforce development, screenings, etc. She indicated that in order to enhance service delivery and eliminate transportation problems, the Avondale Community Action Program has moved to the resource center.

Ms. Small indicated that funding has been renewed for this year but staff will need to apply again next year for another three year program.

In response to a question from Council Member Weise, Ms Small indicated that service recipients are not all from Avondale and in one particular instance, the recipient lives in Tempe but since that person works in Avondale it makes it a lot more convenient to receive

services in Avondale. She added that the resource center has come to be known in the community and many of the service recipients know about the resource center by word of mouth. Council Member Weise suggested honor students at the local high schools may be able to volunteer in some of the literacy programs offered at the resource center. Council Member Weise commented that voting in favor of the resource center is one of the best things he has done as a Council Member.

Council Member Kilgore asked if staff partnered with local schools to provide volunteer opportunities for teachers to fulfill their professional development requirements. Ms. Small indicated that there are several teachers who assist with developmental screenings and classes throughout the day. In response to a follow up question, Ms. Small indicated that people find out about the resource center through word of mouth and referrals from other agencies.

In response to a question from Council Member Karlin, Ms. Small indicated that the income qualification guidelines vary depending on the program. Council Member Karlin indicated she is thrilled with the program and provides a great volunteer opportunity for residents of all ages.

Vice Mayor Scott commented that Avondale's CAP and added that knows first hand that even if the service being sought is not offered, staff takes the time and effort to find the services the person needs.

Council Member Vierhout indicated he is concerned that the resource center is growing out of the facility and asked if there may be any funding sources for another facility. Ms. Small indicated that staff tries to use the available space as efficiently as possible. Many of the agencies are able to share space as their schedules are staggered. She added that she has started talking to some of the partners to determine is additional funding could be secured.

Council Member Weise suggested that the city should start looking at space options for the resource center. Acting City Manager commented that staff can consider it and determine need based on availability of future grant funding among many other factors.

Mayor Rogers indicated she was pleased staff is starting to have conversations with partnering agencies to assess possibilities. Regarding the IGA at hand, she indicated it is crucial to have services evaluated to determine appropriateness of services being provided and future needs.

Council Member Weise moved to adopt Resolution 3178-414; Council Member Kilgore seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:

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

Motion carried 6-0.

**7 ADJOURNMENT**

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

City Council meeting adjourned at 7:44 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 Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Avondale held on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2014. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that the quorum was present.

  
City Clerk