

MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - YUMA CITY HALL
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA
December 19, 2023
5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nicholls called the Regular City Council Worksession to order at 5:30 p.m.

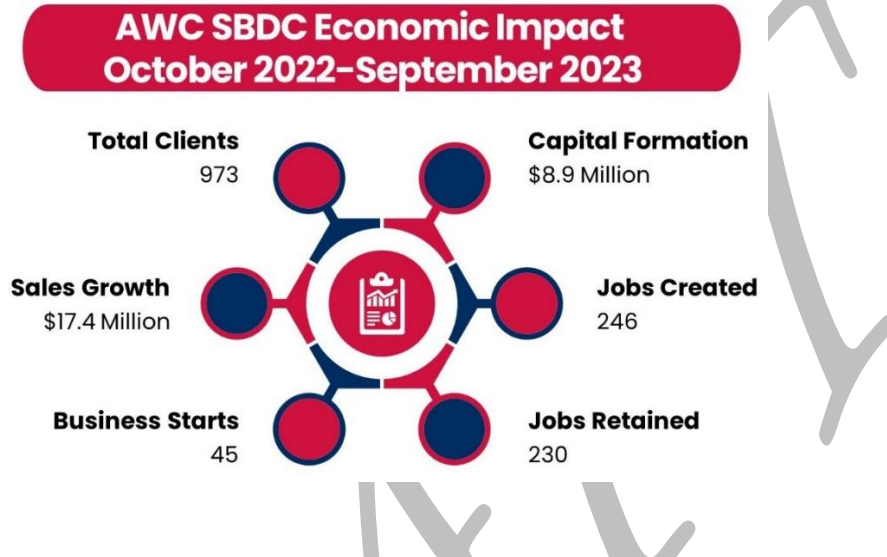
Councilmembers Present: Morales, Smith, Knight, Morris, Shoop, Shelton, and Mayor Nicholls
Councilmembers Absent: None
Staffmembers Present: Acting City Administrator, John D. Simonton
Director of Utilities, Jeremy McCall
Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area
Executive Director, Cathy Douglas
Assistant IT Director, Jason Smith
Various department heads or their representatives
City Attorney, Richard W. Files
City Clerk, Lynda L. Bushong

I. ARIZONA WESTERN COLLEGE SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Crystal Mendoza, Director of the Arizona Western College Small Business Development Center (SBDC), presented the following overview of the SBDC's economic impact and accomplishments:

- Who We Are
 - The Arizona SBDC Network works to help launch, grow and sustain small businesses in Arizona
 - Arizona's largest most comprehensive and accessible statewide source of assistance for small businesses in every stage of development
- SBDC Services
 - Counseling
 - No cost one-on-one confidential business counseling services are available in all municipalities serviced by SBDC
 - Training
 - Provided more than 50 free workshops in Fiscal Year 2023 on a variety of topics including:
 - Youth Entrepreneurial Skills
 - Marketing
 - Moonshot Pitch Competition
 - Lunch & Learn About LLCs
 - Boots to Business – MCAS Yuma
 - Mexican Emprende – Mexican Consulate

- Promoting Small Businesses
 - Counseling and workshops regarding marketing strategy
 - Provide exposure by inviting media to ribbon cutting celebrations
 - Please Buy Local campaign
 - American Express Neighborhood Champions
- Economic Impact



- Funding

Location	Population	2023-2024 Ask	2023-2024 Approved	2024 – 2025 Ask
San Luis	36074	\$ 13,630.00	\$ 13,630.00	\$ 18,037.00
Somerton	14651	\$ 5,860.40	\$ -	\$ 7,325.50
Wellton	2549	\$ 1,020.00	\$ 1,020.00	\$ 1,274.50
Yuma	99600	\$ 39,840.00	\$ -	\$ 49,800.00
Yuma County	57046	\$ 22,818.40	\$ -	\$ 28,523.00
Total	209920	\$ 83,168.80	\$ 14,650.00	\$ 104,960.00

Population per July 1, 2022 Estimates (Per AZ Office of Economic Opportunity)

Salaries & Fringe Benefits	\$ 291,819.10
Small Business Administration	\$ 110,000.00
Host Cash Match - AWC	\$ 110,000.00
Arizona Commerce Authority	\$ 32,000.00
AHEAD Grant	\$ 50,000.00
	\$ 302,000.00

CITY OF YUMA
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
GRANT PROGRAM

A.2. CDBG Request
\$91,350.00

Rachel Canelo, owner of Modern Skn, and **Mario Ghedin**, owner of Autentico Sapore Italiano, spoke regarding how the assistance they received from SBDC positively impacted their businesses.

Discussion

- The SBDC routinely presents to college and high school students and works closely with the Yuma County Chamber of Commerce to bring awareness to the many resources that are available through the SBDC (**Shelton/Mendoza**)
- AWC offers many vocational classes and certificate programs, and the SBDC provides resources to those who are interested in going into business for themselves (**Shoop/Mendoza**)

II. ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE

McCall presented an overview of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) community rollout as follows:

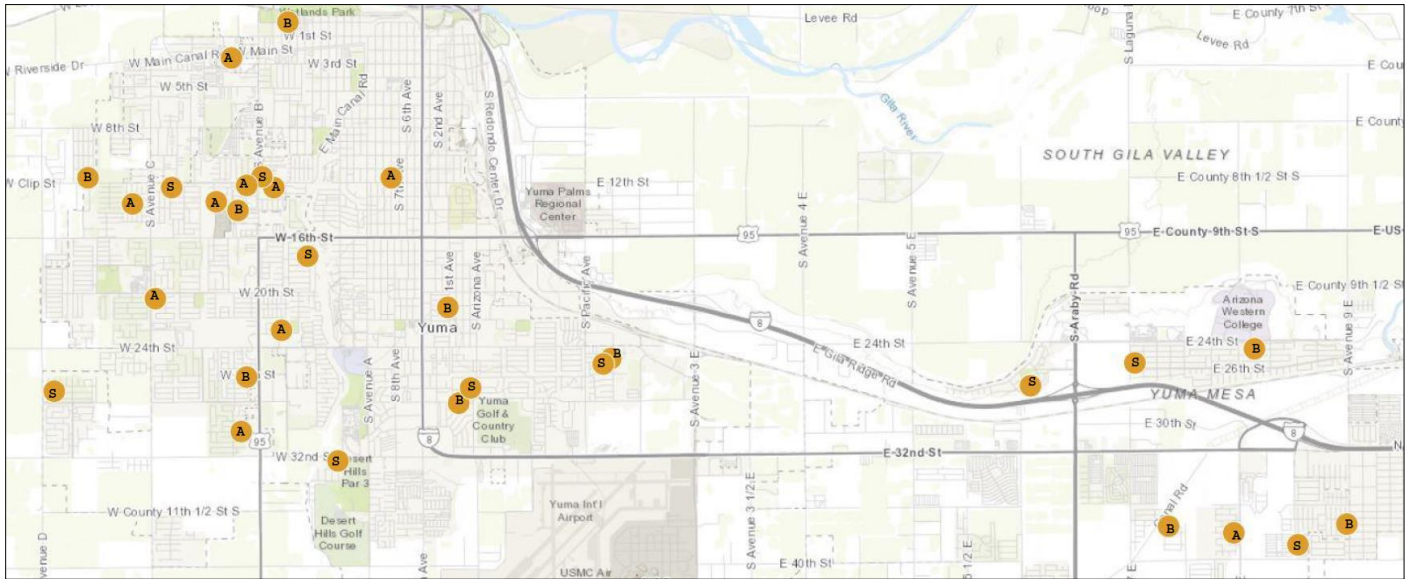
- “Smart” Water Meter Basics



- City’s Water Meter Operations
 - 33,400 water meters
 - Population of 110,000
 - Water Meter Routes
 - 30 individual routes read monthly by two staff meter readers
 - Automated Meter Reading (AMR)
 - Implemented in 2008
 - Drive-by system
 - Electronic data, but semi-manual system
 - Monthly Billing began May 2014
- Master Planning Efforts – Aging Infrastructure
 - AMR Life Expectancy
 - Non-serviceable battery
 - 20-year life expectancy, but actual lifespan closer to 16 years
 - 7,000 failing AMR units
 - Water Meter Life Expectancy
 - 20 years
 - Water meters wear out and contribute to unaccounted for water use

- Next Generation Applications
 - AMI
 - City Council strategic plan outcome of Respected and Responsible
 - Yuma is a trusted steward of City resources; relied upon to provide premier services and regional leadership
- What is AMI?
 - Next Generation Infrastructure
 - AMI is a two-way communication system to collect metering information throughout a utility's service area
- AMI Installations in Arizona
 - Tempe
 - Scottsdale
 - Mesa
 - Surprise
 - Prescott (in process)
 - Flagstaff (radio system)
 - Salt River Project
 - Arizona Public Service
 - The Arizona Water Company - 22 water systems in Arizona, representing a population of approximately 250,000:
 - Apache Junction
 - Superior
 - White Tanks
 - Pinal Valley East and West
 - Coolidge
 - Casa Grande
 - Stanfield
 - Tierra Grande
 - Falcon Valley
 - Saddlebrook Ranch
- Benefits of an AMI System
 - Enhanced Customer Service
 - Customers have direct access to data including consumer engagement website and smartphone/tablet application
 - Customer will gain a greater understanding of their unique water consumption patterns to quickly resolve or prevent service-related issues
 - Increased Visibility Through Analytics
 - Provides data for optimal utility management, including leak detection and water conservation tools
 - Focus on Water Management
 - Will minimize staff deployment and steps needed for monthly billing process
 - Forward Thinking and Future-Proof Technologies
 - Need to be invested in industry trending technology and data management models
- Pilot Project and Vendor Assessment
 - 2022 Vendor Assessment
 - Vendors
 - Smart Earth Technologies
 - Badger Metering
 - Capstone Metering
 - Innovate Water Technologies
 - Sensus Water Technologies
 - Different Technologies
 - Cellular
 - Radio Fixed Network
 - Findings
 - Chosen vendor/system: Badger Meter Cellular AMI System

○ Deployment Map – 30 Installations



- Community AMI Roll-Out Project
 - Early Summer 2024
 - 2,500 AMI units to be received in late spring
 - Meters, encoders, and endpoints
 - Six-year implementation plan
 - Project funding is budgeted within the Capital Improvement Program
 - Target of 5,500 meter installations per year
 - 110 meters/week
 - 20 meters/day
- Web-Based and Mobile Applications

Eye on Water



- Communications and Outreach
 - Webpage addressing Frequently Asked Questions

- Water meter technology upgrades
- How it works
- What do I have to do to upgrade to AMI?
- How do I access the Eye On Water portal?
- Will this change the way my water data is collected?
- Is my information private?
- How can I read my meter?
- Will AMI interfere with devices in my home?
- What kind of signal does AMI use?
- In Field Communications
 - Direct contact with customers
 - Door hangers
 - Information
 - Helpful Links

Discussion

- While the current AMR system information is collected by an employee driving along a specific route, the new AMI system will upload meter information to a cloud four times a day via cellular technology (**Morris/McCall**)
- The AMR meters installed in 2008 will need to be replaced regardless of what business solution the City chooses to implement; moving from an AMR system to an AMI system will provide the additional benefits of the updated technology (**Morris/McCall**)
- The City will be able to apply for a WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant to offset some of the cost of the meter replacements due to their water saving potential (**Mayor Nicholls/McCall**)
- In addition to the new meters having a tighter tolerance, which means that there will be less unaccounted for water use, they can provide more immediate notification of a water leak versus the current monthly reading process (**Shoop/McCall**)
- The cost of the cellular technology that will be used in the new meters is covered by the \$1.00 per month AMI Fee (**Mayor Nicholls/McCall**)

III. YUMA CROSSING NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA UPDATE

Douglas presented the following update on the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area:

- Stability
 - 2023 began with a firm financial foundation for the next 15 years
 - On a bi-partisan basis, Congress reauthorized all National Heritage Areas, including YCNHA, for another 15 years
 - YCNHA is grateful to the City and its voters for renewing the 2% hospitality tax which allows funding growth as the economy grows
- Upcoming Riverfront Park Improvements
 - West Wetlands
 - \$250,000 grant from Arizona Office of Tourism
 - Eight-acre park improvement project
 - Additional parking, landscaping and trails installed in 2024

- East Wetlands
 - \$1.1 million five-year funding agreement
 - Ongoing operations and management of the site on behalf of partners – City of Yuma, Quechan Tribe, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
 - Assembled multiple grants in excess of \$400,000 to develop a new passive recreational area called Sunset View
 - Though construction costs have escalated for this project, YCNHA is working with grant partners and the City to complete the project in 2024
 - Secured two grants from the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management
 - \$76,000 to restore 3,000 linear feet of bank line
 - \$93,000 for invasive species removal throughout 70 acres
- Pending State of Arizona Capital Investments
 - Architectural plans are being developed for new bathrooms at both parks, with hope that funding will come through to construct the bathrooms within the next year
 - The State has budgeted \$750,000 for planning in preparation for \$5 million slated to be funded in Fiscal Year 2025
- Educational Programming
 - Free STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) based field trips for third and fourth grade students in Yuma County provided thanks to grant funding from the National Park Foundation
 - An educational video series was created to be used in conjunction with the field trips featuring mascots Ranger Bucky the beaver and Yasmine the yellow-billed cuckoo
- Cultural Events
 - Día De Los Muertos
 - Haru Matsuri Festival
 - Vintage Baseball Tournament
- Youth & Community Programs
 - Christmas on the Colorado
 - National Space Day Event
- The Challenges
 - Balancing annual budget with escalating inflation
 - Yuma East Wetlands
 - YCNHA commits additional funding needed to maintain the site, control invasive species, and combat graffiti, vandalism, and illegal dumping
 - Historic flooding this fall caused significant damage to riverfront trails, requiring costly repairs
 - Colorado River State Historic Park
 - The park has never generated enough admissions revenue to sustain itself, and both the City and YCNHA contribute significant funding to maintain it
 - Goal of engaging local supporters and national philanthropic foundations concerned with the future of the Colorado River to see that the park could be a great vehicle for sharing that story
 - Historic City Hall
 - Leased from the City for the past 20 years – pending lease renewal

- Building operates on a break-even basis, based on rental revenues from both YCNHS and subtenants
- Beyond basic operating costs, tens of thousands of dollars are invested annually for plumbing, roofing, electrical and Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning repairs and replacement
- Now that the building is over 100 years old, YNCHA and the City should consider how to best preserve and enhance this important part of Yuma's history

Discussion

- The Quechan Tribe is one of YCNHA's partners for the East Wetlands, which is located partially on Quechan land on the north side of the Colorado River (**Shoop/Douglas**)
- Camping is not allowed in City parks, but many schools bring students to the East Wetlands on field trips to learn about the natural environment (**Shoop/Douglas**)
- The East Wetlands is part of a multi-species conservation program managed by BOR, and wildlife biologists come out every year to complete bird surveys (**Shoop/Douglas**)
- Dumping and vandalism are both issues that require costly cleanup efforts and could be mitigated by regular patrols of the riverfront area; unfortunately, this is not something that YCNHA has the budget to accomplish at this time (**Shelton/Douglas**)
- Preservation of the Historic City Hall building is something that should be discussed soon, before its condition deteriorates any further (**Mayor Nicholls/Shoop**)

III. REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA OF DECEMBER 20, 2023

Motion Consent Agenda Item C.2 – Request for Qualifications Award: Traffic Management Center (execute a contract to provide design and support services for the Traffic Management Center and Traffic Signal Operational Improvements to the 16th Street Corridor with Iteris, Inc., Santa Ana, CA in the amount of \$415,373.00) (RFQ-23-2101) (Eng)

Mayor Nicholls declared a conflict of interest on Motion Consent Agenda Item C.2 as his firm is involved with the project.

Motion Consent Agenda Item C.1 – Cooperative Purchase Agreement: Email Security and Protection (continued purchase of Proofpoint Email Security and Protection licensing for a one-year term with the option to renew for two additional one-year options for an estimated annual expenditure of \$112,846.87 from SHI, Somerset, New Jersey) (CPA-24-001)

Discussion

- Proofpoint checks all incoming emails against a database for spam, phishing, ransomware, viruses, etc. to prevent them from reaching their intended recipients; over the last 90 days, there were 2.4 million inbound emails to City email addresses, and roughly 640,000 made it through Proofpoint to a City inbox (**Knight/Smith**)
-

Introduction of Ordinance O2023-040 – Text Amendment: Off-Street Parking (amend the Yuma City Code to update provisions related to off-street parking) (Plng & Nbhd Svcs/Cmty Plng)

Discussion

- There will be a motion on the dais at tomorrow night’s City Council Meeting to amend proposed Ordinance O2023-040 by adding language to make sure that property owners and business owners understand that mutual parking agreements are dependent on certain constraints, and that any change to those constraints may invalidate the agreement (**Knight/Mayor Nicholls**)

EXECUTIVE SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

Motion (Morales/Knight): To adjourn the meeting to Executive Session. Voice vote: **adopted** 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Douglas J. Nicholls, Mayor

Approved at the City Council Meeting of: _____ City Clerk: _____
--