

MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, YUMA CITY HALL
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA
DECEMBER 21, 2016
5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nicholls called the City Council meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE

Councilmember Jacob Miller gave the invocation. **John Lekan**, Police Chief, led the City Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present:	Thomas, Shelton, Knight, Craft, Miller, Wright, and Mayor Nicholls
Councilmembers Absent:	None
Staffmembers Present:	City Administrator, Gregory K. Wilkinson Police Lieutenant, Brian Scanlan Director of Parks and Recreation, Debbie Wendt Chief of Police, John Lekan Fire Chief, Steve Irr Various Department Heads or their representative City Attorney, Steven W. Moore City Clerk, Lynda L. Bushong

FINAL CALL

Mayor Nicholls made a final call for the submission of Speaker Request forms from members of the audience interested in speaking on agenda related items.

PRESENTATION

ST Partners, LLC – Avenue 4-1/2 E and 36th Street Property

Scott Kupperman of Kupperman Location Services presented an overview of the ST Partners project and Almark Foods:

- Almark Foods is the leading retailer of hard-boiled egg products in the industry.
 - They have grown from a \$20 million business in 2010 to just over \$100 million in annual sales last year.
- Almark Foods engaged Kupperman to help find a western US location due to considerable growth in retail demand.
 - Three other states were considered.
 - Current facilities are located in Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee.
 - A facility in Yuma will help to get their products to western states more expediently.

- Phase One of the project includes a 120,000 square-foot facility.
 - Creating approximately 100 jobs.
 - The building will be a \$20 million investment with an addition \$7.5 million in equipment involved in the egg processing.
 - Additionally, the facility will utilize locally sourced eggs, packing materials, and local support resources to construct and maintain the facility and generally facilitate operations.
 - The remaining parcel is proposed to be used to construct a 108,000 square-foot expansion and a stormwater retention basin.
- If City Council approves the sale of the property tonight, which will be followed by a 60-day due diligence period, construction could begin in about 90 days with full-scale production commencing approximately a year later.

Discussion:

Knight asked what the proposed salary level will be. **Kupperman** stated they intend to pay what is needed to be considered an employer of choice, which will include competitive wages, benefits and includes an Employee Stock Ownership Plan. **Knight** inquired if the majority of the employees for the facility will be hired locally. **Kupperman** stated that a facility manager has been hired from this area, and they hope to employ people from Yuma and the surrounding areas. **Knight** asked if Yuma was the only city considered for this facility. **Kupperman** stated that they considered properties in and around Phoenix, as well as the Las Vegas area and southwest Utah. **Knight** requested insight as to what made Yuma more attractive than the other sites that were considered. **Kupperman** explained that there were a combination of factors including existing agriculture-based food processing and packaging businesses, a suitable piece of property that fit the footprint of the desired facility, and the available labor force.

Shelton expressed gratitude that Yuma was selected for this facility and for the impact the facility will make on the lives of the workers who are in need of jobs. He acknowledged the role that the Mayor and City Administrator played in the ultimate decision, adding that theirs is sometimes a thankless job. **Kupperman** thanked Shelton for the acknowledgement. He stated that the overall experience of working with the City, the Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation, and the Arizona Commerce Authority has been positive. The efforts of these groups were well coordinated – something that he does not usually see – and only increased his client's interest in the region.

Recognition of Community Support for Crime Prevention Programs [Presentation given after the Adoption of Ordinances Consent Agenda, but moved forward for the purpose of the minutes]

Scanlan presented certificates of appreciation on behalf of the City of Yuma and the Yuma Police Department to the following:

- Eric White and Paul Wynn from Fisher Automotive for donating advertising time.
- The McDermott family for donating funds to support the Yuma Police Department's K-9 Unit.
- Ira Rosenblatt from El Dorado Broadcasters for donating advertising time.
- Eric Egan from the Fraternal Order of Police Yuma Lodge #34 for donating advertising time.
- John Baladi from Hyundai of Yuma for donating advertising time.

I. MOTION CONSENT AGENDA

Motion (Knight/Craft): To approve the Motion Consent Agenda as recommended. Voice vote: **approved** 7-0.

A. Approval of minutes of the following City Council meeting(s):

Regular Council Worksession	October 4, 2016
Special Council Meeting	November 21, 2016
Special Council Meeting	December 8, 2016

B. Approval of Staff Recommendations:

1. Executive Sessions may be held at the next regularly scheduled Special Worksession, Regular Worksession and City Council Meeting for personnel, legal, litigation and real estate matters pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03 Section A (1), (3), (4), and (7). (Atty)
2. Approve a Special Event Liquor License application submitted by Lindsay Benacka on behalf of the City of Yuma Parks and Recreation Department for Art in the Park. The event will take place at Gateway Park located at 259 S. Gila Street on Sunday, February 12, 2017, from 12:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (SP17-01) (Admin/Clerk)
3. Approve a Special Event Liquor License application submitted by Patrick Collins on behalf of Silver Spur Rodeo, Inc. for the Silver Spur Rodeo. The event will take place at the Yuma County Fairgrounds located at 2520 E. 32nd Street on Friday, February 10, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m., Saturday, February 11, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m., and Sunday, February 12, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. (SP16-28) (Admin/Clerk)
4. Approve a Special Event Liquor License application submitted by Yanna Kruse on behalf of the Yuma County Historical Society for Redondo Days Dinner and Auction. The event will take place at the Sanguinetti House Museum located at 240 S. Madison Avenue on Saturday, February 4, 2017, from 3:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. (SP17-02) (Admin/Clerk)
5. Award to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder meeting specifications for Auctioneer Services, as needed, for a one-year contract, with the option to renew for four additional one-year periods to: A Smart Auction, Yuma, Arizona. (Purchasing)
6. Authorize the City Administrator to execute a one-year contract with the option to renew for four additional one-year periods, depending on the appropriation of funds and satisfactory performance, to be utilized by the Human Resources Department at an estimated annual cost of \$46,188.00 to TriStar Risk Management, Lakewood, Colorado. (HR)
7. Authorize the City Administrator to execute a one-year contract for Electronic Patient Care Reporting (EPRC) System with an automatic renewal for two successive five-year terms, depending on appropriation of funds for an estimated first year cost of \$34,780 to Image Trend, Inc., Lakeville, Minnesota. (Fire)

8. Approve the final plat of Kerley Ranch Unit No. 3 Subdivision. The property is located at the southwest corner of Avenue 6E and the 36th Street Alignment in Yuma, AZ. The applicant is Dahl, Robins, and Associates, on behalf of KDC of Yuma, LLC. (DCD)
9. City of Yuma to take legal action against the State of Arizona regarding Senate Bill 1487 (Atty)

II. RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA

Motion (Craft/Knight): To amend Resolution R2016-041 by adding Schedule 6.11 as an attachment to Exhibit A. Voice vote: **approved** 7-0.

Resolution Consent Agenda R2016-041 – Real Property Sale and Economic Development Agreement: ST Partners, LLC (approve terms for sale of 17 acres of City-owned surplus real property located at the northwest corner of Avenue 4-1/2 E and 36th Street) (Admin)

Speakers

Nicolle Griffin President of the Yuma Joint Technical Education District (JTED), also known as the Southwestern Technical Education District of Yuma, expressed support of the sale of the property for the Almark facility. A food production and processing systems program was approved by the Governing Board this month for the high school students of both Yuma Union High School District and Antelope Union High School District. **Griffin** added that Almark will be helping to write the curriculum for the program.

Kevin Imes, Superintendent for the Yuma JTED, stated that their duty is to train students within career technical education and prepare them to enter the pipeline of skilled workers. It is important for the students to have a place to go when they complete their education. The Almark facility will help provide this to them.

Julie Engel, President and CEO of the Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation (GYEDC), thanked City Council, the Mayor, and the City Administrator for their assistance with this project. She also recognized County Administrator Susan Thorpe, as well as County Supervisors McCloud and Ferguson for their contribution to the success of this project.

Russel McCloud, Yuma County Board of Supervisors, commended the Mayor and City Administrator and GYEDC for a job well done. A project such as this does not happen by accident; it requires a lot of hard work and thoughtfulness.

Knight thanked Engel, GYEDC, Supervisor McCloud, Wilkinson, and Mayor Nicholls for their hard work and dedication. He noted that Mayor Nicholls in particular went above and beyond the part-time duties of his position and took time away from his own business to travel to Phoenix for meetings regarding this project.

Motion (Knight/Craft): To adopt the Resolution R2016-041 as amended.

Bushong displayed the following title:

Resolution R2016-041

A resolution of the City Council of the City of Yuma, Arizona, authorizing and approving the execution of a real property sale and economic development agreement with ST Partners, LLC, concerning the sale and development of approximately 17 acres of City-owned surplus property located at the northwest corner of Avenue 4 ½ E and 36th Street (for construction of a 120,000 square foot food processing plant) (Admin)

Roll call vote: **adopted** 7-0.

Mayor Nicholls commented that economic development is a long-term investment for the whole community. It takes a community effort committed to a long-term vision and improving our community, services, and infrastructure to attract companies. He thanked everyone for their support in making this happen.

Motion (Craft/Knight): To adopt Resolution R2016-040 as recommended.

Bushong displayed the following title:

Resolution R2016-040

A resolution of the City Council of the City of Yuma, Arizona, prescribing standards of financial disclosure for local elected officials, and declaring an emergency (as set forth in A.R.S. § 38-545) (Admin/Clerk)

Roll call vote: **adopted** 7-0.

III. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES CONSENT AGENDA

Motion (Knight/Miller): To adopt the Ordinance Consent Agenda as recommended.

Bushong displayed the following title:

Ordinance O2016-040

An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Yuma, Arizona, authorizing the reservation or creation of a utilities easement and the creation of a shared access easement over the described portions of City-owned real property, declaring certain right-of-way and a described portion of an alley (subject to the utilities easement), surplus for use by the City, vacating the surplus right of way and described portion of the alley to the adjacent property which was previously declared surplus and authorized for sale by Ordinance O2013-38, and authorizing the sale of the additional vacated right of way and portion of the alley (affects the rights-of-way at 1113 W. 16th Street) (Admin)

Roll call vote: **adopted** 7-0.

IV. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES - There were no ordinances for introduction at this time.

V. MINIMUM WAGE IMPACTS AND PRELIMINARY 2017-2018 BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Wilkinson briefed City Council regarding the effects to the budget resulting from passing of Proposition 206 (State Minimum Wage measure), failed Proposition 407 (City public safety & road tax) and other impacts to the City's 2017-2018 budget:

Local Economy

- Personal income grew in the Yuma metro area at 7.9% compared to 3% statewide and 3.7% nationally, putting Yuma 2nd in the nation for personal income growth.
- Job growth in the Yuma metro area increased by 6.8%, which is the third largest increase in the nation.
- City unemployment rate is at 9.58% and dropping.
- City population is 100,049 based on state estimates.

City Personnel

- 2009 – 1,002 employees
- 2010 – cut 154 positions through attrition, implemented furloughs
- 2011-2012 – furloughs ended, hiring freeze implemented
- 2013-2017 – some employees added back as workloads increased
- Yuma Police Department (YPD) and Yuma Fire Department (YFD) have been built back up to pre-recession levels
- Parks and Recreation Department (Parks and Rec) have not gained back the lost employees

Wilkinson noted the following as the main budget challenges:

Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and Minimum Wage Impacts

- Changes to the FLSA have been put on hold by a Federal Judge and will not have an impact on the City for the time being.
- Proposition 206 will raise the minimum wage from \$8.05 to \$10.00 per hour in 2017 and then incrementally to \$12.00 per hour by 2020. This is a 45% increase over a 4-year period.
- Salaries of the lower 15 pay ranges will be compressed to one, with newly hired employees making the same as some current employees in supervisory positions.
- Responses from the business community have varied, from raising all employees pay to cutting back coverage on slow days to compensate for the increase.
- The City will need to figure out how it will respond, starting with reducing part-time hiring.

Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS)

- Increased by:
 - \$2.2 million in 2015
 - \$250,000 in 2016
 - \$1.7 million in 2017
 - A total of \$8.8 million over a three-year period.
- Projected increases to the PSPRS for both YPD and YFD are estimated at about \$500,000 per year.
- Additional bills dealing with Workers' Compensation, minimum staffing, and PSPRS that may impact the budget are being watched.

Deferred Maintenance and Equipment Replacement

- Seeking revenue sources such as Improvement Districts to outsource maintenance of basins and landscaping in some areas.
- A number of developments within the City were supposed to have formed Homeowners' Associations (HOA) to take care of increased landscaping and maintenance within the developments.
- When HOAs were not formed – probably due to the economic downturn – the City stepped in to maintain the landscaping
- Highway User Revenue Funds (HURF) and Local Transit Assistance Funds (LTAF) have been swept by the State, leaving the City to make up those funds from the General Fund.
- Due to vehicle replacement being suspended during the recession, the City has many vehicles that are approaching 20 years.
 - Some larger trucks and equipment – such as fire engines and vacuum trucks – have started being replaced as well as some police cars.

Health Insurance Impacts

- An employee task force has been appointed to seek out options to help mitigate rising health care costs, which have increased by 14% to 17% over the past few years.
- Discussions have been held with Yuma Regional Medical Center to see if they can put together a coverage plan to help reduce these costs.
- Telemedicine and Health Care Blue Book will be implemented on July 1st.
- Employees have been providing feedback including a request for insurance options to receive healthcare in Mexico.

State Funding and Cost Shifting

- The City must find a way to make up for an almost \$12 million loss
 - \$1 million loss from construction sales tax changes
 - \$50,000 in new permit fees to Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
 - \$197,000 paid to the Department of Revenue for auditors
 - \$4.15 million increase in PSPRS costs
 - \$3.9 million loss in state shared revenue
 - \$0.2 million loss Vehicle License Tax
 - \$1.8 million loss in HURF
 - \$0.5 million loss in LTAF

City Programs Implemented

- The following programs have been implemented to help address hiring and employee retention:
 - Utilities apprentice program
 - Public Works Mechanic incentive program

Wendt presented the following impacts on the Parks & Rec Department:

Impact of the Part-Time Budget

- The new minimum wage goes into effect on January 1, 2017, and will impact over 250 part-time employees and one full-time position in Parks and Rec.

- These changes will result in an increase of \$250,000 to part-time salaries alone which does not take into consideration the Federal Insurance Contributions Act tax, Workers' Compensation, etc.
- The minimum wage increase will also result in increased compression, where new employees will be hired at starting pay that is equal to that of long-time employees.

Equipment and Facility Needs

- Many vehicles, equipment, and facilities utilized by Parks and Rec are in need of repair or replacement, including but not limited to:
 - Desert Hills Golf Course backhoe has been broke down, and while a replacement was found in surplus there are ongoing maintenance issues. The estimated cost for replacement is \$80,000.
 - Clymer Recreation Center's 18-year old kitchen that is used for many programs is in need of renovation/replacement. The estimated cost for the renovation is \$8,000.
 - Yuma Art Center has a 10-year old digital projector that is used by parties that rent the facility. It frequently freezes and requires bulbs that cost \$1,600 each. The estimated cost for a new projector is \$20,000.
 - The forestry truck used for trimming trees has several maintenance issues, one resulting in injury to a City employee. The estimated cost for replacement is \$100,000.
 - Yuma Civic Center and the Sanguinetti Athletic Complex parking lots are both in poor condition and may pose a liability due to potential trip/falls.
 - Additionally, the pad underneath the bleachers at Sanguinetti is eroding. The estimated cost for slurry seal is over \$300,000.
 - Desert Hills Golf Course irrigation system is 45 years old and in need of replacement. The estimated cost for a new irrigation system is \$1 million.

Program Reductions

- Kennedy Pool costs \$31,000 to staff and \$120,000 for water, utility costs, and chemicals. In turn, the City receives \$31,000 in revenues for the pool. Closing the pool would save the City about \$88,000.
- Water features at Carver Park and Friendship Park cost the City for water and maintenance, but do not bring in any revenues. Closing the water features would save the City about \$25,000.
- The City provides water to Pioneer Cemetery; however, people regularly fail to turn off the water after watering their plots. The City would save a minimum of \$30,000 by eliminating watering.
- Reducing the hours of cashiers at Desert Hills Golf Course would save the City about \$18,000.
- By eliminating some free and low-participation programs, including open free play at Carver Cottage, Park Socials, and the Archery In-School Program, the City would save about \$200,000.

Increasing Program & Rental Fees

- 10% increase in program and class fees, field and facility rental fees, and ramada reservation fees.
- Increase youth co-sponsor recreation fees; minimal increase from \$5 to \$6 is being considered.
- Charge fees for all field rentals for competitive traveling youth teams.
- Estimated additional revenues based on 10% increase is \$213,485. However, the fee increases may initially reduce attendance.

Chief Lekan presented City Council with two possible models for Yuma Police Department (YPD); one that sustains their current level of service, and one that assumes that revenues will not support the current service levels.

Model that sustains current level of service:

- Personnel
 - YPD produces a massive amount of public records which will be further impacted by the body worn camera program. Administrative Assistant - \$38,287 (includes benefits).
 - The City is 9 dispatchers below the Association of Public Safety Communication Officials recommended staffing levels. 911 Emergency Dispatcher - \$51,015 (includes benefits).
 - In order to sustain the K-9 Unit, YPD must replace a K-9 every year. Replacement and training of a K-9 - \$22,000.
 - The proposed pay for performance plan will help to address retention and recruitment issues and keep pay from dropping below market value.
- Training
 - Police officers are the first responders to mental health crises and require specialized training to deal with issues specific to mental health. First responder mental health training - \$5,000.
 - Utilization of force is being closely and critically examined on almost every event, so YPD needs to stay up to date on this issue. Use of force training - \$5,000.
 - There is a great need for officer training: median patrol officer experience is down to 1.5 years, and rookies now outnumber senior officers. General patrol officer training - \$5,000.
- Vehicles
 - 79 of 169 police sedans are beyond their service life, and 44 of those 79 are patrol vehicles. Service life is 5 years/100,000 miles for patrol vehicles and 7 years/100,000 for all other vehicles.
 - General maintenance costs for out-of-service vehicles are continually increasing.
 - The cost to replace a fully-equipped patrol vehicle is around \$65,000, while an unmarked police vehicle is around \$25,000.
- Equipment
 - The gas masks for YPD's Special Enforcement Team are nearly 15 years old and need to be replaced to keep them operational - \$36,000 (\$1,200 x 30 units).
 - YPD has 253 handheld radios that are now at the end of their service life. While they are still working, parts are no longer going to be made for them so they will need to be replaced. The estimated cost to replace all of the radios is around \$1.2 million, or alternately \$250,000 per year for a 7 year lease-to-own program.
 - In order to train officers locally rather than incurring expenses to send them to Phoenix or Tucson, use of force training equipment needs to be replaced at a cost of \$20,000.
- Facilities
 - A critical security upgrade at the Public Safety Training Facility is required at a cost of approximately \$8,500.
 - The fire suppression system in the YPD server room needs to be upgraded to prevent damage to equipment in the event of a fire at a cost of approximately \$70,000.
 - The driving track at the Public Safety Training Facility is in need of maintenance. The cost for a crack and slurry seal is approximately \$160,000.

Model assuming revenue will not support current level of service:

- Reduction of nine officers

- Professional Standards - one officer
- Disband Narcotics Unit – one sergeant and four officers
- Neighborhood School Resource Officer reduction – two officers
- Training Unit staff reduction – one officer
- Service reductions
 - Implement minimum loss limits for response to fraud, theft, and shoplifting
 - Extend response times for low priority calls for service

Mayor Nicholls recessed the meeting at 7:15 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:21 with the above-noted parties present.

Chief Lekan resumed his presentation as follows:

- Service reductions (continued)
 - Reduce or eliminate community presentation and training requests.
 - Eliminate discretionary assistance to outside law enforcement agencies.
- Other considerations
 - Reduce outside agency funding.
 - Reduce special event staffing.
 - Maintain current “no participation” status on local and federal task forces.
 - Eliminate a K-9 officer position when one retires.
 - Suspend or delay the Body Worn Camera Program.
 - The City may need to return the \$104,000 in grant monies awarded.

Chief Irr presented City Council with proposed changes to keep Yuma Fire Department (YFD) within budget, and summarized other departmental needs affected by the budget:

Staff Reductions

- Reduce daily minimum staffing from 35 to 32 employees
- Move the Ladder Company from Fire Station #2 to Fire Station #5
 - This unit responds to an average of 1,100 calls annually, which will need to be absorbed by the remaining units
 - This will reduce the ability to back up Fire Stations #2 and #3, which are the first and third busiest stations
 - This will also reduce the ability to provide backup for ambulance transport
- The biggest concern with regard to staff reduction is an increase in response times.
 - Fire responses are set up between 4-6 minutes because flashover typically happens within 5 minutes in a residential unit
 - Emergency Medical Service response times are even more important because brain death occurs within 4-6 minutes without CPR and defibrillation, which are recommended within 5 minutes of collapse for the best chance at a positive outcome
 - Increasing response times may affect the Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating, which could potentially increase insurance rates for local businesses
- Will limit the special events that the YFD will be able to cover with on-duty staffing, or will require a standby fee to be paid by event organizers
- Will also make it more difficult to provide coverage for required training and still maintain coverage throughout the City

Equipment

- Radios utilized by YFD are no longer manufactured and replacement parts are unavailable. A four-year replacement plan would require \$210,000 in Fiscal Year 2018.
- Mobile Data Computers (MDCs) in the fire trucks have exceeded their life expectancies and require replacement. A five-year replacement plan will cost \$25,000 annually.
- The existing Field Reporting Tablets will be replaced with Tough Tablets. A five-year replacement plan will cost \$10,000 annually.
- YFD has 20 cardiac monitors that are required for Advanced Life Support Care and have an expected lifecycle of ten years. To replace two monitors each year will cost \$32,000.
- The replacement of aging fire suppression, technical rescue, and hazardous materials equipment will cost \$10,000 in Fiscal Year 2018.

Certification Pay

- \$100 per month for Paramedics – last increase was in 2015, still remains below market pay
- \$25 per month for HazMat Technicians – last increase was in 1990
- \$25 per month for Technical Rescue Technicians – last increase was in 2004

Paramedic Training

- Currently nine Paramedics are eligible to retire and nine more will be eligible in five years.
- While YFD looks for opportunities to hire trained paramedics, this is not always possible. The cost of the paramedic training program is \$7,000 per student.

Physicals and Immunizations

- The cost of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) mandated physicals will increase by \$25,000
- OSHA mandated immunizations will increase by \$10,000.

Ambulance Billing Costs

- The City pays \$60,000 for every \$1 million collected through a third-party biller. Last year collections increased from \$3.3 to \$4.2 million which will drive up the cost of the biller.

Shelton suggested that the City compile a list of equipment needs to be distributed to local businesses and wealthier members of the community, who may be interested in supporting the City with a donation, similar to what was done during the initial construction of the Stewart Vincent Wolf Creative Playground.

Wilkinson noted that the donations for the playground were handled through the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area which is a nonprofit. This may potentially be an option for playgrounds and some of the other equipment. **Shelton** stated that he hoped that City Council might consider in the near future a version of Proposition 407 focusing solely on Public Safety, as the situation is now even more dire.

Thomas asked if the changes presented at tonight's meeting will be implemented on January 1st. **Wilkinson** explained that some of the changes in Parks and Recreation will need to be implemented starting January 1st due to the minimum wage increase going into effect at that time, but the bulk of the changes will be part of the upcoming budget discussions. **Thomas** expressed concern that the City would even consider having employees go to another country for medical care. **Mayor Nicholls** stated that he believed it was actually a request from employees.

Thomas asked if the property tax increases related to the school districts will have any effect on the agreements the City has to provide maintenance to the school's athletic fields. **Wilkinson** stated that the City has some fairly significant partnerships with the schools such as field sharing that help save the City money. Changes to those agreements are not being considered at this time, but can be discussed as part of the budget process. **Thomas** expressed concern and stated the City will be harming itself and possibly opening itself up to lawsuits if the public safety issue is not remedied.

Bill Kereluk, 12765 S. Avenue 5 ½ E, Yuma Chapter President of the United Yuma Firefighters, spoke in opposition of the proposal presented by Chief Irr to close down an engine company. While this may have a positive impact on the budget, it would have a negative impact that would ripple across operations, safety, morale, and personnel retention. Having one less responding Engine Company could increase response times, decrease firefighter safety, and decrease YFD's ISO rating. He suggested that a better solution would be to add personnel to cover the shifts that are currently being covered by overtime, decreasing payroll costs.

Thomas asked if the changes proposed for YFD will take place on January 1st. **Irr** stated that the minimum daily staff reduction and the movement of the engine company is scheduled to take place on January 4th. **Mayor** made note that the departments have been given a budget that they need to work within, and this is Chief Irr's attempt to do so with these changes. **Wilkinson** added that the engine company staff will not be eliminated but rather redistributed; six will be used to cover an ambulance that is currently being manned with overtime, and the other three will be made available to fill in and reduce overtime. While he agrees with Kereluk's concerns, the City is in a difficult position due to Propositions 206 and 407 and needs to figure out how to balance the budget. **Thomas** asked what the expected increase of response time is, as a result of these changes. **Irr** stated that it would be difficult to say as it will depend on what units are available and what the response requires. **Thomas** asked if the response times would be within the previously mentioned flashover period. **Irr** stated that he could not guarantee that they would be. **Thomas** asked if Lekan would be redistributing personnel as well to meet call demand. **Lekan** stated that he is reshuffling personnel and finding areas where he believes he can make reductions and still meet the needs of the community. He did not make any reductions to traffic because traffic is consistently an issue. While he is proposing the elimination of the narcotics unit, that does not mean that YPD will stop enforcing narcotic offences. It just means that they will not have a dedicated unit that specifically targets narcotic offenders.

Knight asked Kereluk if he could provide City Council with numbers to back up his suggestion that hiring additional personnel to fill positions being covered by overtime would actually save the City money. **Kereluk** stated that he would provide that information. **Shelton** asked if the changes that are not expressly required to take place on January 1st could wait until February or March to give more time to consider other options. **Mayor Nicholls** stated that these are the recommendations that these departments have come forward with to manage their budgets for the rest of the fiscal year, and he is sure they would not do anything that they absolutely do not have to do. **Irr** added that he has been trying for the last two years to get more firefighters to cover the positions being staffed with overtime, but he has continually been denied. It has been identified as a potential solution, and it can be discussed in more detail during the budget process.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING AND RELATED ITEMS – There were no public hearing items scheduled at this time.

FINAL CALL

Mayor Nicholls made a final call for the submission of Speaker Request Forms from members of the audience interested in speaking at the Call to the Public.

VII. APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHEDULING

Mayor Nicholls announced that this would be City Attorney Steve Moore's last City Council Meeting due to his retirement. He presented Moore with a Mayor's Coin and thanked him for the guidance and direction that he has provided throughout his more than thirty years of service to the City. **Moore** voiced his confidence in the ability of the Mayor and Councilmembers to work through the current budget challenges. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity he has had to work at a job he loves and his appreciation for the exceptional, hardworking staff that have contributed to the accomplishments of the City Attorney's Office during his time with the City. He thanked the Mayor for his continuing confidence in and support of the City Attorney's Office staff and all City employees.

Motion (Miller/Craft): To appoint Fred Dammeyer to the Planning and Zoning Commission with a term expiration of December 31, 2021. Voice vote: **approved** 7-0.

Motion (Thomas/Knight): To appoint Jediah Schmidgall to the Residential Advisory Board with a term expiration of December 31, 2021. Voice vote: **approved** 7-0.

Miller, Shelton, Thomas, Craft, Knight, and Mayor Nicholls reported on events and meetings they have attended during the last two weeks and upcoming events of note.

Motion (Knight/Thomas): That the Citizen's Forum and Regular Worksession scheduled for July 4, 2017 and the Regular City Council Meeting scheduled for July 5, 2017 be cancelled due to the City's holiday scheduling. Voice vote: **approved** 7-0.

VIII. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Wilkinson reported the following events:

- December 31st – New Year's Eve Family Fun Night at the Yuma Civic Center
- January 5th-8th – Perfect Wedding Dinner Theater at the Yuma Art Center
- January 8th – Learn to Play Foot Golf at the Desert Hills Par 3 Golf Course

IX. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Dennis Franklin, 301 3rd Street, clarified his comments during the December 7th City Council Meeting by explaining that he does not work for Bruce Jacobson, but they share information and an interest in developing the riverfront. After listening to the discussion regarding the City's budget challenges, he believes those challenges can be solved by generating additional money through increased tourism. He urged the City to explore this as an option and offered to work with the Yuma Visitors Bureau to create a presentation on how this can be accomplished.

Bruce Jacobson, 4130 W. El Dorado, stated that he was not aware that Franklin was going to be using his name at the last City Council Meeting. While he believes Franklin has some worthy ideas that Jacobson may endorse in the future – at this point he is simply listening. He praised City Council for their professionalism and teamwork and thanked them for their service. He wished them luck with the upcoming budget and expressed hope that the revenues from increased development in 2017 may be of help to the City.

Eric Egan, 1500 S. 1st Avenue, asked the City Council to focus on what is important to the Yuma community as they begin the budget process this year. The City risks losing additional police officers and firefighters because other agencies offer better benefit packages. He proclaimed that cutting public safety services is not in the best interest of the community.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, **Mayor Nicholls** adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m. No Executive Session was held.

Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Douglas J. Nicholls, Mayor