

MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, YUMA CITY HALL
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA
NOVEMBER 18, 2020
5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION/PLEDGE

Pastor David Lindgens, Emanuel Southern Baptist Church, gave the invocation. **Robin Wilson** led the City Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present:	Shelton, Morris, Watts, Knight, McClendon, Shoop, and Mayor Nicholls
Councilmembers Absent:	None
Staffmembers Present:	City Administrator, Philip A. Rodriguez Deputy Chief of Police, Lisa Culp Various Department Heads or their representative City Attorney, Richard W. Files City Clerk, Lynda L. Bushong

FINAL CALL

Mayor Nicholls made a final call for the submission of Speaker Request Forms for agenda related items from members of the audience.

PRESENTATIONS

Police Recruitment Program

Deputy Chief Culp presented an overview of the Yuma Police Department's new Police Recruitment Program:

- Purpose
 - Address Issues with Recruitment and Retention
 - In the most recent recruitment effort, only 4 out of an initial 132 applicants remain
 - Community Engagement
 - Keep Yuma's young leaders who have a personal interest and concern for the community in Yuma
 - Bridge the Gap Between 18 and 21 Year-Olds
 - Currently potential recruits find careers with other agencies or leave Yuma for education and employment opportunities
 - Keeps Youth on the Right Path
 - Some youth who are interested in a career in law enforcement cannot pass the background check once they reach the age of 21

- Benefits
 - Creates a career path for local youth who desire a career in law enforcement
 - Results in a longer training period
 - Establishes a better understanding of law enforcement
 - Generates long-term and loyal employees
- Program Summary
 - Starting salary of \$14.54 per hour
 - Full-time position with benefits and holidays
 - Eligibility Requirements: 18-21 years of age, high school diploma, driver license
 - Program terminates at 22 years of age
 - 1.5-year training program includes classroom experience, physical fitness, and foundational police skills
 - Continued civilian employment until Law Enforcement Academy (LEA)
 - Priority seating in LEA once minimum age requirement is met
- Marketing
 - City of Yuma Website News Feed
 - Facebook and Twitter
 - Newspaper, Radio and News
 - Press Release
 - City Council
 - Poster to Human Resources and Arizona Western College (AWC)

Discussion

- While it is hoped that all who enter the program ultimately move on to the LEA, any who do not could use their on-the-job experience to apply for another opening within the Police Department (**Mayor Nicholls/Culp**)
- Applicants who are accepted from this recruitment program will be hired in January; future start dates may move closer to May to correspond with high school graduation dates (**Mayor Nicholls/Culp**)
- Vacancies may be filled or may remain open until the end of the program period depending on when it occurs (**Mayor Nicholls/Culp**)
- Completion of the program will not result in earning a degree or certificate; recruits can pursue a law-enforcement related degree separate from their employment (**Mayor Nicholls/Culp**)
- There are a maximum of four positions available through this program; depending on the age of the recruits, vacancies may occur a different times as they enter the LEA (**Knight/Culp**)
- Criminal justice and forensics courses that offer law-related certificates or degree programs are available at AWC and potentially at the local university branches (**Shelton/Culp**)
- Program participants have no financial obligation or City service commitment after completion of the LEA (**Shoop/Culp**)
- Starting pay of \$14.50/hour begins as soon as the applicant is hired into the program; they do not need to complete any training to begin receiving compensation. (**Morris/Culp**)
- Due to the target age of this program, it would be practical to advertise on social media platforms such as Instagram that tend to serve a younger audience (**Morris/Culp**)

I. MOTION CONSENT AGENDA

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

A. 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). (City Atty)
2. Approve an increase to the estimated expense from \$220,000.00 to 463,193.00 for the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) & Refrigerant Services. (Citywide – Bid #2018-20000076) (Wilson/Lewis)

II. RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA

Motion (Knight/Morris): To adopt the Resolution Consent Agenda as recommended.

Bushong displayed the following title:

Resolution R2020-054

A resolution of the City Council of the City of Yuma, Arizona, declaring and adopting the Official Canvass of the results of the Special Election held on November 3, 2020 (Propositions 412 and 413 regarding Yuma City Charter amendments) (Admin/Clerk)

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

III. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES CONSENT AGENDA

Motion (Shoop/Watts): To adopt Ordinance O2020-025 as recommended.

Bushong displayed the following title:

Ordinance O2020-025

An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Yuma, Arizona, authorizing and approving an amendment to the Sixteen & Four LLC Land and Improvements Lease between the City and Sixteen & Four, LLC to create separate leases applicable to the two parcels of real property created by the land division of Parcel A (property located at the northwest corner of 16th Street and 4th Avenue) (City Atty)

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

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.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHEDULING

1. Announcements

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

2. Scheduling - No meetings were scheduled at this time.

V. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Rodriguez reported the following:

- November 21-22 – Colorado River Crossing Balloon Festival at Yuma West Wetlands Park
- November 21 – Yuma Rocks featuring Checker'd Past at Desert Sun Stadium
- Governor Doug Ducey and Dr. Cara Christ, director of the Arizona Department of Health Services, have released official guidance to help Arizonan's celebrate Thanksgiving safely during the ongoing COVID pandemic
- Areas that have their recycling collected on Thursdays should set their bins out on Wednesday of next week due to the Thanksgiving holiday

VI. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Gary Wright, City resident, urged City Council to look for ways to increase revenues that will allow the City to offer public safety officers a more competitive salary, and suggested that a sales tax increase would be one option that would hold everyone who lives in, or visits the Yuma community part of the responsibility.

Miguel Miranda, City resident, expressed concern regarding drug activity in his neighborhood and spoke in support of increasing police officer salaries in order to keep Yuma competitive with other law enforcement agencies.

Alicia Zermeno, City resident, spoke about the number of homeless individuals who congregate at the Heritage Library and surrounding park, which discourages residents from utilizing these facilities, and although she didn't have a solution, she offered the service of herself and a group of area residents in keeping the park clean.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion (Knight/Morris): To adjourn the meeting to Executive Session. Voice vote: **approved** 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

APPROVED:

Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

Douglas J. Nicholls, Mayor