

MINUTES
SPECIAL WORKSESSION/LEGISLATIVE DAY
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA
ARIZONA STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
1700 W. WASHINGTON, PHOENIX, ARIZONA
March 26, 2019
11:00 a.m.

CONVENED IN THE ARIZONA STATE CAPITOL LOBBY AT 11:30 A.M.

Councilmembers Present: Knight, Shelton, Watts and Mayor Nicholls
Councilmembers Absent: Miller, Thomas and McClendon
Staffmembers Present: City Administrator, Gregory K. Wilkinson
Deputy City Administrator, Jay Simonton
Deputy City Attorney, Rodney Short

Yuma City Council met with Speaker of the House, Rusty Bowers [approximately 11:30 a.m.]

Mayor Nicholls thanked Speaker Bowers for his efforts on the Arizona drought contingency and reviewed all the items on the below noted agenda with Speaker Bowers. Discussion ensued regarding road conditions and deferred maintenance in Yuma and the need to remain vigilant on HURF funding. Discussed Highway 95 traffic and access to YPG and interstate commerce. Reiterated the need to place our local brick and mortar businesses on same playing field by implementing the Wayfair decision. Also discussed the increasing unfunded mandates associated with PSPRS payments which is hampering ability to provide salary increases to stay competitive across the board, including public safety recruitment.

Attendees for lunch included: Senators Kerr and Otondo; Representatives Dunn, Osborne, Fernandez and Peten; Ben Blink and Dawn Wallace of the Governor's Office; and, members from the Arizona League of Cities and Towns (League) and HighGround, Inc.

Lunch was held at the League's conference room. The noted Yuma Delegates discussed the five noted agenda items with City Council. Mayor Nicholls also shared new information regarding possible releases of undocumented migrants into community at much higher numbers. Lengthy discussion on YPG, including Highway 95 traffic and the Price school, and how those affect City residents.

Introductions from the House Gallery [approximately 1:15 p.m.]

Representatives Dunn, Osborne, Fernandez and Peten acknowledged Yuma Day at the Capitol and introduced the City delegation to the gallery.

Introductions from the Senate Gallery [approximately 2:00 p.m.]

Senators Otondo and Kerr introduced the Yuma delegation to the Senate Gallery.

Meeting with Governor Ducey and staff and Representative Dunn [approximately 3:00 p.m.]

Mayor Nicholls thanked Governor Ducey for his efforts on the Arizona drought contingency. Governor Ducey thanked the Yuma leadership, including Representative Dunn for his tireless work. Governor Ducey also noted Yuma attorney Wade Noble's expertise and work on the issue. The discussion immediately turned to the Border crisis due to the Border Patrol/ICE release announcement. Discussion ensued on how to handle the influx of migrants and the humanitarian crisis it is causing. Discussed responsibilities to provide safety to those released, as well as general safety to community. Identified the immediate needs of shelter, food and medical supplies. Acknowledgement was given that this a federal issue, and there are no good solutions at the state, county or municipal level. Acknowledged that federal leadership on national level debates issue and cannot come to a consensus on cause or solution. All agreed it was very political. Discussion about engaging non-profits to provide more assistance. Mayor Nicholls stated he planned to involve Yuma's local non-profits immediately.

Mayor Nicholls reviewed the list of agenda items with the Governor and his staff, including the auto license tax and need to find a solution for user-fee of roads in Arizona. Attendees took a group photo.

Meeting with Senate President, Karen Fann [approximately 3:45 p.m.]

Mayor Nicholls again thanked Senate President Fann for her efforts on the Arizona drought contingency. They discussed the noted agenda items, specifically the PSPRS liabilities. President Fann sympathized as her hometown of Prescott was in similar situation. Discussion of public safety associations presenting solutions for 2020 legislative session and involvement of Yuma. Discussion of roadway conditions in Yuma and continued restoration of HURF and other state funds. Discussion of MVD fee for DPS and possible legislation taking some of the fee back. Discussed Highway 95 issues and costs, as President Fann has expertise in the industry. Discussed the digital goods and Wayfair implementation debate and the need to place local businesses on even playing field with digital marketplace. Attendees took a group photo.

Dinner Social [approximately 4:45 p.m.]

City Council left the Arizona State Capitol building and traveled to the HighGround barbeque reception held at 830 N. 4th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ. Councilmember Shelton did not attend the reception. Councilmember Watts attended the reception until approximately 5:15pm. Attendees included: Chuck Coughlin, Doug Cole, Scott Smith, Paul Bentz, Pat Cunningham, Barrett

Coughlin and Patrick Barrett from HighGround; Representatives Dunn, Osborne and Fernandez; Senator Kerr; Daniel Scarpinato and Gretchen Conger from the Governor's Office; Fletcher Montzingo from Senate President Fann's Office; Ken Strobeck, Tom Belshe and Nick Ponder from the League. No formal presentation was made and no discussion or deliberation of specific City business was conducted.

Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Douglas J. Nicholls, Mayor

DRAFT