

MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - YUMA CITY HALL
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA
January 16, 2024
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 Parks and Recreation, Eric Urfer
Police Captain, Wayne Boyd
Various department heads or their representatives
City Attorney, Richard W. Files
City Clerk, Lynda L. Bushong

I. YUMA COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

Rebecca Clayton, Yuma Coalition to End Homelessness (YCEH) Coordinator, updated City Council on the YCEH activities as follows:

- Who We Are
 - It is the goal of YCEH to reduce the numbers of persons in Yuma County experiencing homelessness through combined efforts, strategic planning, and community relationships
 - In order to succeed, collaborations must exist with community stakeholders such as:
 - Public housing agencies
 - Social service providers
 - School districts
 - Law enforcement
 - Government entities
 - Faith-based organizations
 - Affordable housing developers
 - Veteran organizations
 - Victim service providers
 - Mental health agencies
 - Landlords
 - Business owners
 - Advocates
- Arizona Department of Housing Balance of State-Continuum of Care
 - Yuma County is one of 13 smaller counties around Arizona that receive funding via local homelessness coalitions such as YCEH
- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
 - Coordinated Entry
 - Access points around Yuma County will conduct assessments with homeless individuals and families
 - Add person to the By Name List (priority list)
 - Expedite referrals to partner agencies
 - Work with case conferencing committee to house homeless
 - Diversion Funds
 - Funding available through the state under the YCEH grant

- Assist with deposits and/or rent
 - Car repairs to prevent loss of work
 - Any other expenses to reduce the risk of homelessness as allowed
- Outreach and Networking
 - YCEH bi-monthly meetings, Rotary meetings, council meetings, and local networking meetings
 - Current members:
 - City of Yuma
 - Achieve Human Services
 - Community Bridges, Inc.
 - Horizon Health and Wellness
 - Crossroads Mission
 - Western Arizona Council of Governments
 - National Community Health Partners
 - Arizona@Work
 - Housing Authority of the City of Yuma
 - Casa Rays of Hope
 - Hope Inc
 - Transitional Living Center (TLC) Recovery
 - Yuma Regional Medical Center Behavioral Health Center
 - The Salvation Army
 - Catholic Community Services
 - Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing
 - First United Methodist Church
 - Oxford House
 - Saguaro Foundation
 - Campesinos Sin Fronteras
- Point-in-Time (PIT) Count
 - Volunteer Effort
 - With the help of partner agencies, a PIT count is conducted annually in the month of January
 - This is a national count that is done throughout the country to gain analytics to the homelessness crisis
 - Assessments are conducted with homeless individuals who are willing to participate
 - Donations are collected to give out to the homeless individuals and families that volunteers come into contact with
 - PIT Count 2022
 - 107 unsheltered individuals
 - 94 in emergency shelters
 - 67 in rapid rehousing
 - 178 in permanent supportive housing
 - 16 in transitional housing

2022 Point-In-Time Count		
↑ 0.3%	↓ 1.6%	↑ 3.4%
Overall homelessness increased by 0.3%	Sheltered homelessness decreased by 1.6%	Unsheltered homelessness increased by 3.4%
↓ 5.5%	↓ 11.1%	↑ 3.1%
Families with children experiencing homelessness decreased by 5.5%	Veterans experiencing homelessness decreased by 11.1%	Individuals experiencing homelessness increased by 3.1%
↓ 12%	↑ 15.5%	↓ 6.1%
Unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness decreased by 12%	Individuals experiencing chronic homelessness increased by 15.5%	People in families with children experiencing homelessness decreased by 6.1%

- Community Solutions to End Unsheltered Homelessness Conference
 - December 12, 2023, at Four Points by Sheraton
- Together WE can END Homelessness!
 - Coordinated Entry Sites
 - Organizations who sign on as users of the HMIS system to conduct assessments
 - Active Members
 - Members who will be proactive and participate in coordinated efforts
 - Outreach Volunteers
 - PIT Count volunteers and street outreach volunteers needed
 - Networking/Training
 - Next YCEH Conference – November 7, 2024
 - Training HMIS/Coordinated Entry
 - Sponsors
 - Conference and event sponsors needed
 - Promote Housing Development/Landlord Recruitment
 - Increased affordable housing and landlords who are willing to work with agency vouchers and programs are needed immediately

Discussion

- The protocols for the PIT count are created at the state level, and currently the number of homeless who are unwilling to participate are not tracked (**Morales/Clayton**)
- Crossroads Mission has a limit of how many nights someone can stay in the shelter; one solution might be creating a safe sleeping area, which is just a piece of land where homeless individuals can camp overnight (**Shelton/Clayton**)
- The majority of those who participate in coordinated entry are single individuals, but there are also families who may need two or three bedrooms, so a range of housing options would be ideal (**Shoop/Clayton**)
- Achieve Human Services has applied for a grant to build another shelter to serve Yuma's homeless population, which will help in the interim while more affordable housing is being developed (**Shoop/Clayton**)
- While the PIT count protocols do not call for counting homeless individuals who do not want to participate in available programs, volunteers indicate that the majority of those contacted want help (**Knight/Clayton**)
- Public awareness events and outreach will be conducted to reach landlords who may be willing to become qualified to accept HUD housing vouchers; YCEH will also be reaching out to developers who may be able to help with the construction of affordable housing (**Morris/Clayton**)
- YCEH works with TLC Recovery, Arizona@Work, and the Department of Economic Security to provide help finding jobs for those transitioning out of homelessness (**Shoop/Clayton**)
- Due to the inability to count those who choose not to participate and those who may be staying with friends or family during the PIT count, the number of homeless is significantly higher than reported (**Smith/Clayton**)
- In years past, the PIT count has varied so much that it is difficult to compare year to year; YCEH is working to be more consistent and perform more outreach in order to obtain the most accurate count possible (**Mayor Nicholl/Clayton**)

II. PARK PATROL PROGRAM

Urfer introduced **Captain Boyd** and provided an overview of the purpose of the new Park Patrol Program as follows:

- Purpose
 - Help ensure safe, positive, and enjoyable experiences for park patrons
 - Educate patrons regarding park use
 - Enforce park rules and regulations
 - Preserve parks by deterring vandalism and crime

Captain Boyd presented the following information on department responsibilities, officer duties, and patrol coverage:

- Joint Command
 - Yuma Police Department (YPD)
 - Schedules and manages the officers
 - Completes activity and enforcement reports
 - Serves as Public Information Officer for park patrol
 - Parks and Recreation Department
 - Implements post-incident response
 - Identifies patterns of park activity
 - Manages the budget
- Park Patrol Officers are YPD Officers
 - Commissioned officers with full enforcement authority
 - Trained and equipped with police vehicles and communications
 - Aware of trends and activity impacting our community
 - Vested interest in serving our residents
- Duties include, but are not limited to:
 - Vehicle, bicycle, and foot patrol in parks, complexes and recreation facilities
 - Acting as a visible and frequent deterrent to violators
 - Educating the public on park use and regulations
 - Taking enforcement action as appropriate
 - Maintaining applicable statistics and making recommendations for improvements
 - Conducting investigations for incidents in parks and at recreation facilities
 - Responding to calls for service or request for special attention in parks
 - When possible, participating in Parks and Recreation produced events and attending public meetings involving issues in the parks
- Patrol Coverage Plan
 - Typical Patrol Schedule
 - Officers on an 8- to 10-hour shift
 - One shift per 24-hour period, Sunday-Saturday
 - Randomized shifts

Urfer concluded the presentation with the following:

- Additional Support
 - Parks Night Shift
 - Respond to maintenance issues and perform special parks-related tasks

- Close gates and secure parks
- Most shifts are between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m.
- Recreation Site Supervisors
 - One staff member per scheduled sports complex and recreation facility
 - Monitor field and facility use and assist users
 - Clear locations after activities have concluded
 - Most shifts are between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.
- Camera Surveillance
 - More static cameras are being added
 - Mobile cameras

Discussion

- The Parks Patrol Program will begin on February 1st; the goal is to patrol the City's major parks every night, and the neighborhood parks two to three times per week (**Mayor Nicholls/Urfer**)
- While some of the City's parks close at 9:00 p.m., most close at 11:00 p.m. and open again at sunrise; parks and complexes may stay open later than the posted closing time due to games or special events (**Shoop/Urfer**)
- The recordings from the park cameras can be retrieved and used during investigations; while cameras are helpful, their locations become known and people can stay away from those areas to avoid being recorded (**Knight/Urfer**)
- Regarding illegal dumping, depending on the nature of what is dumped it may be possible to investigate and determine where it came from or who dumped it (**Shelton/Captain Boyd**)

III. REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA OF JANUARY 17, 2024

Adoption of Ordinance O2024-001 – Grant of Utility Easement: Fire Station at Avenue 8½ E (grant a utility easement to Arizona Public Service Company (APS) for installation of electric facilities to serve the new City fire station) (City Admin)

Mayor Nicholls declared a conflict of interest on Motion Consent Agenda Item C.1 due to his firm's involvement with the project.

Adoption of Ordinance O2024-005 – Rezoning of Property: 1641 W. 10th Place (rezone approximately 1.33 acres from the Low Density Residential (R-1-6) District to the High Density Residential (R-3) District for the purpose of developing townhomes on the site) (Plng & Nbhd Svcs/Cmnty Plng)

Mayor Nicholls and **Deputy Mayor Morris** declared a conflict of interest on Motion Consent Agenda Item C.5 due to their respective firms being involved with the project.

Public Hearing – Proposed Increase to Water and Wastewater Utility Rate Charges and Fees and Reinstatement of the Water Resource Trust Fund Surcharge (proposed changes will be presented as separate resolutions at a future City Council Meeting) (Utl)

Discussion

- While public comment will be taken at tomorrow night's meeting, City Council will not be voting on the proposed water rate changes at that time; the resolutions will likely be presented for consideration sometime in February (**Mayor Nicholls/Simonton**)

EXECUTIVE SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

Motion (Knight/Morris): To adjourn the meeting to Executive Session. Voice vote: **adopted** 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Douglas J. Nicholls, Mayor

DRAFT

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