

MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, YUMA CITY HALL
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA
MARCH 6, 2024
5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nicholls called the City Council meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE

Tom Renard, Zion Church, gave the invocation. **Steve Irr**, former City of Yuma Fire Chief, led the City Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: Morales, Smith, Knight, Morris, Shoop, Shelton, and Mayor Nicholls
Councilmembers Absent: None
Staffmembers Present: Acting City Administrator, John D. Simonton
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.

Briefing of the upcoming Marine Corps Air Station -Yuma (MCAS-Yuma) Weapons and Training Instructor Course (WTI) Exercise

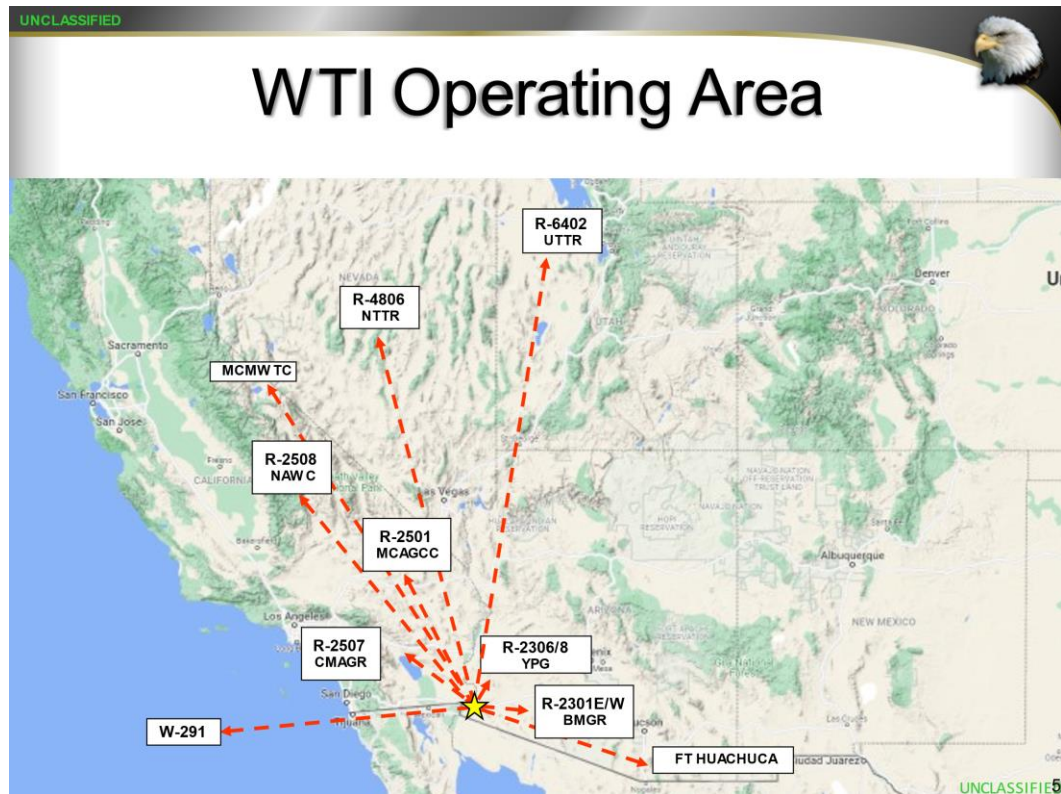
Colonel Eric Purcell, Commanding Officer of Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One (MAWTS-1), presented a training video that is unlike the videos presented in previous years. The video was created with the help of a focus group put together by **Major Dave Eklund** and his wife.

Colonel Purcell continued to present the following:

WTI 2-24 Overview

- From March 3, 2024, to April 22, 2024, WTI students will conduct operations in and around Yuma area
 - During a WTI course there are over 4,000 Marines, soldiers, sailors, and airmen, that arrive to MCAS Yuma, and surrounding areas
 - 80 to 100 additional aircraft will participate in the WTI course
- Flight phase is March 20, 2024 – April 20, 2024
 - The purpose is to prepare United States Marine Corp. (USMC) aviation personnel for various combat environments by exposing them to realistic and challenging training

- WTI Operating Area



- Aircrafts will travel as far north as Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, to the waters off San Clemente Island, and out to Fort Huachuca, Arizona, through the Chocolate Mountains
- Contested Environment
 - WTI trains Marines and students from different branches of the military that come to WTI, to the highest level of enemy threat that they might encounter in real world operations and in uncertain situations

Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation (GYEDC) Mid-Year Update

Greg LaVann – Interim Chief Executive Officer & President of GYEDC, presented the following strategic goals for Fiscal Year 2023-2025:

- Goal #1 - Create High Wage Job Growth within a Modern Economy
 - Execute a targeted national attraction strategy that focuses on industries that align with the City of Yuma's competitive assets (Aerospace & Defense, Advance Manufacturing, Ag-Tech, Food Processing and Logistics)
 - Launch a Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) attraction campaign with a focus on trade within international markets that share complementary industry presence and domestic growth demand

- Create media vehicles that produce consistent content centered on the Greater Yuma regional value proposition via new website design, business journal, social media, ad analytics-driven online advertising within targeted regional U.S. markets
- Goal #2 - Expand the Greater Yuma Region's Global Presence
 - Create a Bi-National attraction division with in-market contracted staff dedicated to promotion of the Greater Yuma region within key Mexico territories
 - Utilize the State of Arizona's nine trade offices throughout the world to drive attention and investment to our region via trade missions and international trade shows focused on targeted sectors
 - Launch an Ag-Tech international campaign to support regional industry organizations focused on expanding precision agricultural research and development (R&D)/Testing
- Goal #3 – Foster Resource Network for Existing Industry
 - Identify new grants, incentives, and low-interest loans to support existing industry through the City of Yuma's Business Retention and Expansion program
 - Strengthen the service-related eco-system (healthcare/childcare) that ensures the health and wellness of employees within our region
 - Diversify our regional workforce training programs to prepare today's workers for tomorrow's jobs
- Goal #4 – Enhance Investor & Stakeholder Engagement
 - Create an Investor Relations staff position dedicated to nurturing GYDEC's dynamic relationship with each investor and public partner
 - Maximize our extensive library of data and analytics to provide valuable intelligence to investors and stakeholders
 - Produce meaningful content via social media, direct email distribution, luncheons, and forums that support our investors' business goals.
 - Lead collaborative vision planning amongst stakeholders to create an inclusive economy that fosters innovation
- Goal #5 - Create an Economic Resilient Environment
 - Identify grant opportunities that expand our workforce development training infrastructure
 - Work with local utilities to ensure development corridors are adequately served to support the modern economy's requirements
 - Support burgeoning industries catalyzed by federal public policy bills (Clean Technology Manufacturing, Desert Climate Farming Resiliency, Intermodal Transportation, and Spaceport)
- Key Performance Indicators (KPI)
 - KPI helps measure GYEDC's performance in accomplishing their goals and giving the City of Yuma the best return on their investment by focusing on the following targets:
 - Investor Creation
 - Additional staff dedicated to creating a higher investment engagement from the community
 - Strive to expand investor base
 - Have a diverse investor base to build on moving forward

- Revenue Generation
 - Ensuring revenue generation continues to be at a higher performance rate year over year
 - Be internally prepared for budget cuts
 - Explore different grant revenue streams
- High Wage Job Growth
 - Create new jobs within the community by attracting diverse investors
- Economic Resilience
 - Representing the Yuma region when presenting around the world via Zoom with different trade associations and different economic development groups, and informing them of the assets, commonalities, and shared uses they can find in our community

Discussion

- Preparing for the future with diversified industry is a great move; during the pandemic different industries were affected in different ways, and having essential jobs within different industries helped keep a lot of people employed within our community during the pandemic. **(Morris/LaVann)**
- We are seeing a lot of movement with new industry focusing on Arizona and the West Coast. With a large consumer base in the West Coast, companies are no longer shipping from the Midwest or East Coast; Phoenix has had a lot of success for this reason. Business is now too large for Phoenix and companies are now looking into metropolitan areas and giving the City of Yuma a serious consideration to bringing their business to this area. **(Shoop/LaVann)**
- The current administration enacted the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill to drive new investment in infrastructure along with clean energy equipment, technology, and production. Companies who are far ahead of America in advanced technologies are looking to come to America to collect the rewards from the passing of these bills. We are seeing companies from Taiwan, Korea, China, Australia, and the United Kingdom that are considering coming to Arizona because of Arizona's location next to the fifth largest economy in the world, California. **(Shoop/LaVann)**
- Arizona is not the most economic development friendly state when it comes to incentives. Different cities and counties across the country are given leniencies for Public-Private Partnerships (P3); Arizona does not receive the same leniency. For this reason, speaking from a P3 standpoint, it is a bit more difficult for manufacturing and logistic companies to work with public bodies. However, there are a lot of opportunities for P3 projects in the healthcare and educational sectors. GYEDC, along with Mayor Nicholls and Elevate, is working on an Innovation Hub. Once complete, the Innovation Hub will be a major attraction for P3 partnerships and will be an economic engine and catalyst for years to come. **(Shoop/LaVann)**
- Economic development is different in every city, every state, and every country. What might be good for the City of San Luis might not be what the City of Yuma wants/needs, which is why GYEDC needs to be willing to adapt, within reason. **(Shoop/LaVann)**
- Bringing jobs to Yuma County is the main mission and focus of GYEDC. There are currently five companies in the City of Yuma that are going through different stages of expansion. The capital investment and number of jobs that will be invested in the Yuma community as a result of this expansion will be in GYEDC's year-end report. There is also a new project coming to Yuma; an announcement will be made to the community when a location has been found for this Fortune 500 company to settle in. **(Shoop/Lavann)**

- A Spaceport will enhance Yuma in terms of jobs, boost the economy and education, and will be an innovation driver for future technologies, future users, and really put Yuma on the map from a space tourism standpoint as well. (**Shelton/LaVann**)
- Development of the Colorado River riverfront will help attract labor force. Riverfront recreation is a key element that GYDEC sells to help recruit and retain personnel for companies coming to Yuma. Riverfront development is a great way to highlight the City of Yuma as a place where families can enjoy a lifestyle of live, work, play. (**Shoop/LaVann**)

Introduction of The Hansen House

Bonnie Irr, Executive Director of The Hansen House, presented the following:

Mission

The mission of The Hansen House is to provide care, support, and dignity to individuals in need, who are on hospice services and nearing the end of life.

Vision

Seeking support from the community, the vision is to operate a home where hospice patients without resources can receive quality comfort care at the end of life.

- The Hansen House is a non-profit organization, supported by community donations, grants and a low, sliding-scale daily fee. If the daily fee is not affordable for a family, the patient will be accepted to The Hansen House for free.
- The Hansen House provides:
 - A coordinated plan-of-care with the resident's hospice agency
 - Individualized care plans
 - A private room in a residential home
 - Open visiting hours
 - 24-hour caregiving
 - Comfort medication administration
 - Individualized meal prep and comfort feeding
 - Bathing
 - Dressing
 - Incontinence care
 - Transfers
 - Laundry/linen services
 - Individualized activities
 - Aroma therapy
 - Music therapy, life review, and personal remembrance projects
 - Family support

Core Values

- Compassionate care
 - Compassionate care is at the center of what The Hansen House does, and why The Hansen House exists.
- Teamwork
 - Staff work as a team with the patient, family, and hospice agency to provide a coordinated approach to patient-centered care.

- Integrity
 - Honesty and moral principles guide the organization’s operations and interactions with the community.
- Respect
 - The Hansen House respects patients as unique individuals with feelings, wishes, rights, cultural diversities, and traditions.

Discussion

- Each patient will have a private room for their family to be present at their bedside and be comfortable watching television or listening to music of their choice. **(Morales/Irr)**
- The Hansen House has applied for grants, but have been turned down at this time. This was due to not having the necessary data since the home was not yet open; once the requested data is collected, it will be presented to the stakeholders in the community and a capital campaign will be considered to potentially acquire a bigger home. **(Morales/Irr)**

I. MOTION CONSENT AGENDA

Motion (Knight/Morales): 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 Meeting February 7, 2024

B. Executive Session

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)

C. Approval of Staff Recommendations

1. Authorize the purchase of seven HVAC Air Handler units to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder to Trane, Tucson, Arizona for a total cost of \$113,797.00. (RFB-24-197) (Fac Mgmt/Purch)
2. Authorize the award of a Police Uniforms and Accessories contract for one year to the two lowest responsive and responsible bidders with an option to renew for four additional one-year periods, depending on appropriation of funds and satisfactory performance, to Galls, LLC, Lexington, Kentucky, and Precision Protective Services LLC, Yuma, Arizona, at an estimated annual expenditure of \$93,365.00. (RFB-24-130) (YPD/Purch)
3. Authorize the City Administrator to execute an agreement for the Joint Land Use Plan Update services with White & Smith, LLC of Charleston, South Carolina at an expenditure of \$364,960.00. (RFP-24-177) (Plng & Nbhd Svcs/Purch)

II. RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA

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

Bushong displayed the following title(s):

Resolution R2024-009

A resolution of the City Council of the City of Yuma, Arizona, providing for a call of election for the 2024 Primary and General Elections, designating the election dates and purpose, designating the deadline and location for candidates to file nomination petitions, and designating the deadline for voter registration (notice of the following designated election dates: Primary Election – July 30, 2024; General Election – November 5, 2024) (City Admn/City Clk)

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

III. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES CONSENT AGENDA

Motion (Morales/Morris): To adopt the Ordinances Consent Agenda as recommended.

Bushong displayed the following title(s):

Ordinance O2024-009

An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Yuma, Arizona, amending Chapter 154 of the Yuma City code, rezoning certain property located in the General Commercial/Infill Overlay (B-2/IO) District to the High Density Residential/Infill Overlay (R3-/IO) District, and amending the zoning map to conform with the rezoning (approximately 2.82 acres located at 1749 S. Arizona Avenue and the northeast corner of Riley Avenue and 18th Street) (Plng & Nbhd Svcs/Cmtty Plng)

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

IV. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Bushong displayed the following title(s):

Ordinance O2024-010

An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Yuma, Arizona, declaring a portion of right-of-way surplus for City use and vacating title to the abutting property owner upon payment to the City of fair market value and correcting a scrivener's error (eight-foot strip of land between parcels B and C near 19th Street and Arizona Avenue erroneously retained by the City) (Eng/Dev Eng)

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.

V. APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHEDULING

Announcements

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

Mayor Nicholls briefly spoke about the Special Worksession/Legislative Day he attended, along with City of Yuma Councilmembers and staff, on March 4th, 5th, and 6th, 2024, at the Arizona State Capitol Building. Together with Arizona Legislators, the Arizona Governor, the Arizona Attorney General, the Arizona Department of Agriculture Director and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Director, focused on bills that will go through, or have gone through, to the state legislature. The theme of the bills was local control versus state control over local issues.

Scheduling

Motion (Morales/Knight): That a City Council Retreat/Special Worksession be scheduled for March 26th and 27th, 2024, and be posted in accordance with state law. Voice Vote: **approved** 7-0

VI. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Simonton reported the following events:

- March 8th – Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) Etching by YPD and other local law enforcement agencies – Yuma Palms Target parking lot
- March 8th & 9th – Star Fiesta at the West Wetlands Park
- March 16th – Kite Fest 2024 at the Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex (PAAC)

Simonton reminded the community the City’s annual Neighborhood Cleanup is still underway.

Mayor Nicholls recessed the meeting at 6:27 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

VII. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Patrick Norris, City resident, spoke about the soccer fields at Yuma Valley Park. Norris claims kids at the park are constantly getting kicked off the soccer fields, and there is no explanation to the kids as to why they are not allowed on the fields. He also raised concern about the soccer fields being watered on Saturdays when kids want to use the fields and are not able to.

Terry Cordero-Torres, City resident, spoke regarding ongoing issues he has with the City’s Public Works Department.

Karen Watts, City resident and member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) local Chapter #1016, thanked the City of Yuma, City Council, and Chief Garrity for their support and participation at the Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) walk done in February on the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.

Bonnie Knight, City resident, expressed her support for Israel and the United States as sovereign nations and their right to defend their countries.

Greg Wilkinson, City resident, spoke in support of the City Council members receiving a salary increase. **Wilkinson** also gave some statistics regarding the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas.

The following people requested the City of Yuma adopt a Resolution calling for the release of hostages and ceasefire in Gaza:

- **Sherri Levek**, City resident
- **Jennifer Reger**, City resident
- **Teresa Sanders**, City resident
- **Barbara Khatoon**, non-resident
- **Alea Hassin**, City resident
- **Layla Hassin**, non-resident
- **Holly Danielle**, City resident
- **Charlene Young**, City resident

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, **Mayor Nicholls** adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m. No Executive Session was held.

Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Douglas J. Nicholls, Mayor

Approved at the City Council Meeting of:

City Clerk: _____