

MINUTES
REGULAR WORKSESSION
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA
YUMA CITY HALL
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA
April 5, 2016
6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nicholls called the Regular City Council Worksession to order at 6:10 p.m.

Councilmembers Present: Thomas, Shelton, Knight Craft, Miller, Wright, and Mayor Nicholls
Councilmembers Absent: None
Staffmembers Present: City Administrator, Gregory K. Wilkinson
Neighborhood Services Specialist, Tad Zavodsky
Police Chief, John Lekan
Police Captain, Lisa Culp
Director of Financial Services, Pat Wicks
Various department heads or their representatives
City Attorney, Steven W. Moore
City Clerk, Lynda Bushong

I. FAIR HOUSING PROCLAMATION

Mayor Nicholls read the Fair Housing Proclamation, which declared April 2016 as Fair Housing Month. The proclamation encourages all citizens to work for tolerance and equality, and equal opportunity in their own community.

II. 2016 NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP ACADEMY MEMBERS

Mayor Nicholls introduced Tad Zavodsky, Neighborhood Services Specialist, and provided a background on the Neighborhood Leadership Academy (NLA), noting:

- The NLA was established in 1996 under former Mayor Marilyn Young,
- The goal of the NLA is to improve communication between the City and the community; and,
- Train and empower citizens to bring community issues forward to City staff and the City Council; and,
- Prepare individuals for positions on the City's Boards and Commissions.
- The academy consists of 20-25 citizens selected through an application process who then receive an overview of City departments and services and training sessions on leadership and team building over the course of 14 weekly three-hour sessions.

Zavodsky recognized 14 of the 2016 NLA members that were in the audience.

Mayor Nicholls thanked the participants for getting engaged and involved in their community.

III. 4TH AVENUE AND 16TH STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Mayor Nicholls declared a potential conflict of interest regarding this agenda item due to the type of work done by his firm. He turned the meeting over to Deputy Mayor **Craft** and exited the room.

NLA members Mary Leia Rodriguez and Connie Clark, representing the group, lead the following discussion: **Rodriguez** asked what traffic impact the City Council envisions from the completed project. **Knight** stated he would like it to be transformed from a bottleneck so drivers do not have to wait through two or three stoplights to get through the intersection. **Clark** asked if the City has any plans to mitigate traffic congestion and delays during construction. **Craft** explained that construction will be taking place during early morning hours to minimize any traffic impact.

Rodriguez asked what types of businesses the City Council hopes to see in the area and if any development plans are known to the City. **Wilkinson** explained that there are some definite plans, but agreements with those businesses prevent the City from revealing that information at this time. **Clark** asked if the City Council believes the improvements will result in redevelopment in the area north of the intersection. **Craft** stated that based on conceptual plans he has seen for the intersection, he believes that it will. This project is going to put a bright, shining star on the busiest intersection in the city.

Mayor Nicholls returned to the dais.

IV. REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA OF APRIL 6, 2016

B.8 – Grant Application: 2016 Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program:

Authorize the City Administrator to execute the appropriate documents to apply for federal funding under the FY2016 Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program for agencies with more than 25 officers. (City Administration)

Craft noted that the cost sharing or matching requirement section of the grant announcement states that applicants may satisfy the match requirement with either cash or in-kind contributions. He asked how much the City will be required to contribute, and what an in-kind contribution might include. **Lekan** explained that at this point in time, all numbers are estimates. Based on some examples from other cities, the cost will depend heavily on whether server or cloud-based storage is utilized. If the City already owns appropriate storage units, those could be used as an in-kind contribution. **Craft** asked for an estimated cost per camera. **Lekan** stated that he is reluctant to discuss camera prices at this point because the project has not yet gone out to bid, but prices start around \$600 per camera. The cost will be affected by resolution quality, which will in turn affect storage. Compared to storage costs, the hardware is relatively inexpensive. Cloud storage for approximately 56 cameras for a period of one year comes to about \$53,000.

Knight asked how many cameras the Police Department intends to purchase. **Lekan** explained that he has asked for 50-56 cameras. While it is likely more cameras could be requested, he is concerned about resource capacity. The video will need to be downloaded, saved, redacted, stored, and prepared for evidence. It is a complex program, and he believes this is a good beginning number. **Knight** asked if each camera will be assigned to an officer, or if the cameras will be shared. **Lekan** stated that his preference is for each camera to be assigned, as historically individually assigning equipment results in

it being better maintained. **Culp** added that it will also depend on the vendor and the camera chosen. Some can be easily traded off, while some require multiple steps to transition between users.

B.6 – License Agreement: United States Department of the Navy: Authorize the City Administrator to execute a license agreement with the United States Department of the Navy to use Kiwanis Park to conduct training operations. (City Administration)

Knight noted that in the past, the City has allowed the use of Kiwanis Park by the Navy without a written agreement. He asked which party expressed a need for the agreement. **Wilkinson** stated that it was the Navy that requested the agreement. The City did sign agreements with the Marine Corps in the past for these training events, but it was a very simple agreement with the base commanding officer. The Department of the Navy has taken over that responsibility, and it will now be managed at a much higher level.

R2016-008 – Resolution of Support: Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Grant: Adopt a resolution supporting the application for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant to complete the development of a Multi-Modal Transportation Center in downtown Yuma at the historic Hotel Del Sol. (City Administration)

Knight asked if there are matching funds required for this grant. **Wilkinson** confirmed there are, but the award is not slated to come out until fall 2016 at the earliest. The matching funds will be budgeted as part of the 2017-2018 fiscal year. **Shelton** requested a brief presentation on this item at tomorrow's City Council Meeting for the benefit of the public. **Wilkinson** stated he would put something together.

2016-2017 City of Yuma Preliminary Budget

Wright remarked that looking at the budget for solid waste, it appears that for the nine employees listed, the average payroll budget comes to \$102,000. He asked how that figure was calculated as it seems a bit high. **Wicks** explained that the items under payroll include salary and wages, benefits, and overtime. [**Wicks** clarified later in the budget discussion that 13 employees were included in this amount.]

Wright asked if the City is paying more on its debt this year than it did last year. **Wicks** explained that we refunded some bonds this year which brought the City's debt service requirement down, but debt was increased for the two facilities added to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Shelton asked for an update on the Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF). **Wicks** stated that the State has not determined their budget yet, but it is estimated that the City will receive somewhere around \$7 million this year. **Shelton** asked how much the City would receive if it was fully funded. **Wicks** stated that it would be somewhere between \$8 and \$8.5 million. **Shelton** stated that he has received comments that the City should be seeking to increase revenues, and asked if the City has taken any steps to do so. **Mayor Nicholls** explained that the City met with the director of the Yuma Chamber of Commerce regarding the budget, and have had discussions with numerous people regarding potential tax changes. It is widely recognized that there is a revenue issue; the question is how to solve it. **Wilkinson** noted that during his presentation tomorrow he will be discussing some of the budgetary issues that the City is facing.

Shelton shared that a few of his constituents have suggested cutting the City's weekly radio show until the financial situation improves. **Wilkinson** stated that his concern is that the radio show is a venue used to get information out to the public and increase transparency. While the City does issue press releases, it then must depend on newspapers, television stations, and radio stations to put that information out. Unfortunately, sometimes that does not happen.

Mayor Nicholls asked how the potential additional \$1.5 in HURF could be spent if it is not included in the budget. **Wicks** explained that the City Council has the power to move budget authority from one fund to another; for example, if grant money included in the budget is not received. Another option would be to roll the funds over into next year's budget. He clarified his response to Councilmember Wright's previous question regarding the Solid Waste employees, stating that there are 13 employees included in that budget. **Wright** asked how many CIP projects are funded with HURF monies. **Wicks** stated that there are five projects listed in the budget. He added that this is the first time since 2010 that the City has had any money from HURF to spend.

Wright asked what steps were taken to develop the budget. **Wilkinson** explained that the initial guidance to all departments was that the budget was flat. Any requests outside of a flat budget are addressed individually. Next, the budget is opened up and each department inputs their numbers. The budget is then reviewed in significant detail, looking for any substantial changes or discrepancies. Justification is required for anything that is added, and alternative funding sources are investigated. He also meets with all of the department heads to make sure everything is tracked. He expressed appreciation for Wicks and Wendy Wren, Budget and Treasury Manager, who spent many nights and weekends working on the budget to make sure it was ready ahead of the earlier deadline.

Wright asked whether the staff had been instructed to differentiate between wants and needs when developing the budget. **Wilkinson** stated that he does not believe there are any wants left in the budget. It is really all needs at this point. **Wright** inquired if the City explored privatization of any of their services. **Wilkinson** explained that privatization of several areas has been considered. Solid waste comes up frequently, but the City is currently the cheapest provider in the state. Costs are currently \$11.25 per month, and that includes a lot more than solid waste pickup. About a year and a half ago, Republic Services performed an audit to make sure everything was accounted for in the solid waste fund, and they found it to be accurate. They also determined that they could not provide the same services as the City at a lower cost. Water and wastewater have also been considered, but other cities that have privatized those services were dissatisfied with the results and were, in fact, trying to figure out how to reverse that change. One area that has been successful but does not fall under strict privatization is the use of prison labor in the Streets and Parks Maintenance departments. Currently, the City is looking into privatizing fuel purchases.

Wright requested an itemization of the solid waste fund, noting that the cost of the trucks, full and part-time employees, healthcare costs, and retirement are all factors in determining if privatization is a better option. **Wilkinson** explained that solid waste, water, and wastewater are enterprise funds. They function as separate, stand-alone businesses. Those funds cannot be used to pay for anything else, and they are not supplemented with monies from the general fund.

Knight noted that Desert Hills lists 10 employees with a cost of \$951,294, and commented that it seems like a high number for 10 employees. **Wicks** clarified that, as with many of these funds, only the full-time employees are listed. Part-time employees have a significant impact at the golf course.

Additionally, some employees have their labor charged from more than one fund depending on where they are working at any given time.

Knight stated that the wastewater fund jumped from \$240,043 for 2015-2016 to \$6,101,000 for 2016-2017. While he realizes it is caused by capital improvements, it is still a very significant increase.

Wicks explained that it is primarily a result of the five-year rate increase of roughly 2% per year, which was intended to be devoted to capital improvements.

V. ADJOURNMENT/EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion (Knight/Craft): To adjourn the meeting to Executive Session. Voice vote: **adopted** 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Douglas J. Nicholls, Mayor