

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR WORKSESSION**  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - YUMA CITY HALL  
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA  
**November 15, 2016**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Mayor Nicholls** called the Regular City Council Worksession to order at 6:01 p.m.

Councilmembers Present: Shelton, Knight, Craft, Miller, Wright, and Mayor Nicholls  
Councilmembers Absent: Thomas  
Staffmembers Present: City Administrator, Gregory K. Wilkinson  
Director of Community Development, Laurie Lineberry  
Various department heads or their representatives  
City Attorney, Steven W. Moore  
City Clerk, Lynda Bushong

**I. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

**Chuck Coughlin**, President of Highground, Inc., briefed City Council regarding the 2016 regular session of the Fifty-Second Legislature and the outlook for the 2017 regular legislative session.

There are challenges on the state level to provide funding for a number of programs from education to social services, and a great deal of uncertainty on the federal level as to the future of the Medicaid expansion in Arizona. The battle for Highway Users' Revenue Funds (HURF) will continue as the State again dipped into HURF to balance State budget needs. These funds are intended for the maintenance of city streets throughout the state, and transportation is key to economic growth and development.

Arizona has a history of cooperation and forming mutually beneficial relationships which as really benefited the state. It seems, however, that recently a bit of Washington politics has leaked in to Arizona, creating a more combative and confrontational setting. Highground will continue to be vigilant and encourage personal relationships with the members of the legislature that the City works with to ensure that they are responsive to the councilmembers and mayors who represent their constituents at the local level.

Proposition 124, regarding a cost of living adjustment for members of the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS), was approved by voters in May 2016. However, a recent ruling deemed a portion of the benefit package requiring participants to pay more unconstitutional. A recent report on the PSPRS has caused concern and Highground continues to monitor the situation as leadership tries to right the ship and ensure that revenues meet financial obligations going forward.

Several bills passed during the last legislative session, including Senate Bill 1487 which allows essentially any legislator – regardless of which district they represent – to ask the Attorney General to investigate any Arizona city for suspected legal activity, and Senate Bill 1524 which prohibited cities

form establishing regulations that restrict the free market. Highground helped to modify SB1524 with the City's input and continues to work to reform SB 1487 to make it a more productive measure.

There have been leadership changes in both the Senate and House of Representatives, with new Speaker of the House J.D. Mesnard and new Senate President Steve Yarbrough. Mesnard started out as an intern in the legislature many years ago and is very familiar with the process. He put together a well thought out report on how to make the House a more collaborative and participatory body from the membership's perspective and is dedicated to broader distribution of decision making responsibility and greater participation in the development of the budget.

There will be continued discussion on construction sales tax reform. The City's Finance Director, Pat Wicks, has been a part of that discussion and Highground will continue to work with the City and the League of Arizona Cities and Towns to make sure that as those mechanisms are reformed the sales tax dollars are going back to the communities where the construction is taking place.

**Mayor Nicholls** asked if there are any plans in the works to help with economic development since it was largely defunded by Governor Ducey. **Coughlin** stated that there has not been any discussion on economic development and it seems the State has retreated to a large extent, but he has seen that local communities are stepping up with job training and vocational opportunities. He emphasized the importance of job retraining in this new transitory economy where people are being displaced due to technology, particularly as it relates to healthcare and high-tech where there is negative unemployment.

## **II. CABALLEROS DE YUMA ANNUAL REPORT**

**Travis Smith**, El Presidente (President) of the Caballeros de Yuma, addressed City Council regarding the contributions of the Caballeros de Yuma to the community. Since its inception in 1962, the Caballeros de Yuma has donated more than \$3.2 million to the Yuma community. Total donations and scholarships during Fiscal Year 2015-2016 equate to \$104,197:

- Midnight at the Oasis - \$63,080
- Scholarships - \$12,950
- Miscellaneous cash donations (requests from other groups) - \$20,000
- El Toro Bowl - \$5,000
- Yuma Territorial Marathon and Half Marathon - \$2,400
- Ken & Betty Borland Holiday Pageant & Tower Lighting - \$767

The Colorado River Crossing Balloon Festival which took place November 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. While the media flight on Friday was cancelled due to windy conditions, the weather during the weekend was nearly perfect. There were 29 balloons in attendance and thanks to the kindness of the community, the Caballeros de Yuma were able to forward a generous canned food donation to the Crossroads Mission.

Upcoming events of note include:

- Ken & Betty Borland Holiday Pageant & Tower Lighting on November 26<sup>th</sup> – an annual event taking place at Desert Sun Stadium where local groups share their talent and Friendship Tower is lit in the spirit of the holidays.

- El Toro Bowl on December 3<sup>rd</sup> – a joint effort between the Caballeros de Yuma, the Matador Athletic Association, and Arizona Western College.
- Yuma Territorial Marathon and Half Marathon on January 28<sup>th</sup> – this is a qualifying race for the Boston Marathon that attracts runners from across the United States and throughout the world. There are currently 200 runners registered for the event with a goal of 500 participants.
- Midnight at the Oasis on March 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> – this event has grown from 30 cars at its inception 25 years ago, to one of the premier car shows in the country. Entrance for vehicles to be shown at the event has been sold out for several months and there is currently a 50-car waiting list. Many other community groups receive a large part of their annual funding from participation in this event.

### III. REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA OF NOVEMBER 16, 2016

Motion Consent Agenda Item B.3 – Grant Award: State of Arizona – Department of Homeland Security (execute the required documents to receive grant funding in the amount of \$9,448.00) (Fire/Administration)

Motion Consent Agenda Item B.4 – Grant Award: Fire Prevention and Safety Grant – FEMA Award (execute the required documents to receive grant funding in the amount of \$10,000) (Fire/Community Risk Reduction)

Motion Consent Agenda Item B.5 – Grant Award: Arizona Governor’s Office of Highway Safety (execute three grant agreements for highway safety projects in accordance with Arizona’s Federal Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Highway Safety Plan) (Police/Patrol)

**Knight** commended Chief Irr, Chief Lekan, as well as the Yuma Fire Department and Yuma Police Department staff involved in applying for and procuring these three grants. The grants total \$76,748 and will cost the City only \$500 in matching funds.

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Motion Consent Agenda Item B.7 – Preliminary and Final Plat: Gomez Plaza Subdivision (approve the preliminary and final plat for the Gomez Plaza Subdivision located near the southeast corner of 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Sunridge Drive) (DCD/Planning)

**Mayor Nicholls** asked if the applicant had any objections to the conditions of the approval. **Lineberry** stated that the City has been working with the applicant for almost 10 months to make sure that they are comfortable with the language.

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Introduction of Ordinance O2016-039 – Declare Property Surplus and Authorize Sale: Northeast corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Madison Avenue (declare a parcel of real property surplus and authorize the sale of all or a part of the surplus parcel) (Administration/YCNHA)

**Wright** noted that this property is subject to the Yuma Riverfront Master Development and Disposition Agreement (Master DDA) and asked how that will be addressed. **Moore** explained that the Master DDA will need to be amended and the amendment will have to be agreed upon by the buyer,

the Master Developer and the City. **Wright** asked if the sale will be accomplished through a competitive bidding process. **Moore** stated that the competitive component of the marketing of the City's property along the riverfront was accomplished when the original Master Developer submitted a proposal and the City awarded that bid to develop the riverfront for a specific period of time. **Wright** asked if local and out-of-town developers will have an equal chance in the development of this property and how it is sold. **Mayor** reiterated that the competitive bidding has already been completed and the property is under contract. This will just be a modification to that contract.

#### IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There being no further business, **Mayor Nicholls** adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m. No Executive Session was held.

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Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

APPROVED:

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Douglas J. Nicholls, Mayor