

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CITIZEN'S FORUM
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - YUMA CITY HALL
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA
April 2, 2019
5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nicholls called the City Council Citizen's Forum to order at 5:35 p.m.

Councilmembers Present: Shelton, Watts, Thomas, Knight, McClendon, Miller, and Mayor Nicholls
Councilmembers Absent: None
Staffmembers Present: City Administrator, Gregory K. Wilkinson
Various department heads or their representatives
City Attorney, Richard W. Files
City Clerk, Lynda Bushong

I. MEMORIALS ON CITY PROPERTY

Kristie Gomez, 1437 S. 41st Drive, asked if the memorial cross placed by she and her family, that the City removed, was on City or private property. **Wilkinson** stated that the City survey staff measured the area and found it to be on the line of City property. **Gomez** countered that she had the measurements completed by a title company, and while she agrees it was right on the line she believes it was on private property. She asked how the City was able to remove the cross if it was on private property. **Mayor Nicholls** stated that it is the City's belief that it was on City property, which gave the City the authority to remove it. **Gomez** asked if the location was confirmed prior to the removal. **Mayor Nicholls** replied that he believed it was clear that it was within the City right-of-way.

Gomez asked why five other crosses remain on City property. **Wilkinson** stated that complaints were filed regarding the location of her cross. **Gomez** expressed her belief that she and her family are being discriminated against because their cross is the only one that has been removed. She asked if the City would be willing to find a compromise. **Knight** opined that the crosses would be governed by the City's sign ordinance, and any that are located within the City right-of-way are not legal and should be removed.

McClendon stated that this is the first time this issue has come before City Council and asked for Gomez to be patient while the City goes through the process of discussing the issue and coming up with a policy regarding memorials. **Gomez** agreed with this suggestion, but reiterated that this is a deeply personal matter and she believes that she and her family were discriminated against. **Mayor Nicholls** acknowledged that this is a deeply emotional situation and thanked Gomez for coming today and presenting to City Council.

II. ADJOURNMENT/EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion (Thomas/Knight): To adjourn the meeting into Executive Session. Voice vote: **approved** 7-0.
The meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Douglas J. Nicholls, Mayor

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