

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, YUMA CITY HALL  
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA  
**DECEMBER 10, 2019**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers Present: Shelton, Watts (6:08 p.m.), Thomas, Knight, McClendon (via telephone), Miller, and Mayor Nicholls  
Councilmembers Absent: None  
Staffmembers Present: City Administrator, Philip Rodriguez  
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 the one agenda item from members of the audience.

**I. SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT: SALVATION ARMY**

**Mayor Nicholls** stated there is a need for a very brief executive session and called for a motion to recess.

**Motion** (Knight/Thomas): To recess to executive session (at 6:03 p.m.). Voice vote: **approved 6-0** (Councilmember Watts not yet in attendance).

**Mayor Nicholls** reconvened the meeting at 6:11 p.m. with the City Councilmembers listed above present. Councilmember Watts was not present for the initial roll call, but joined the meeting shortly after City Council recessed.

**Mayor Nicholls** called for those speakers signed up to speak on this agenda item.

**Danny Bryant**, non-City resident, stated that a little over a year ago he came before City Council at a call to the public and made a case on behalf of the donors and concerned citizens of the community stating that the Boys and Girls Club was in danger. The City of Yuma was asked to take the lead in trying to protect the intent of the donor monies that were raised by the community for the Boys and Girls Club. The City of Yuma stepped up and the community is indebted to them for doing so.

**Bryant** stated he has reviewed the settlement agreement and has been in contact with some of the donor groups and they are supportive of this agreement. **Bryant** further noted he had a commitment

from several of the donors to get behind capital campaigns to also raise the money to retire the debt that the City will incur in reaching this settlement.

**Colleen Langewisch**, City resident, recalled the Salvation Army saved the Boys and Girls Club by stepping up when the community had no faith in the organization after the prior Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club embezzled money. **Langewisch** stated her concern that the property had been used for church services while the City had a Councilmember on its board. **Langewisch** also questioned whether the City was paying to get the property back, what they planned to do with it, as well as the legality of the reversionary clause. **Langewisch** expressed disappointment with how the Salvation Army was being treated especially since they stepped up during the border crises despite being sued by the City of Yuma.

**Benny Zazueta**, City resident, noted he is the current Program Director at the Boys and Girls Club, as well as a parent of a child who attends their programs. **Zazueta** asked what the next move was now that the City has the building and questioned whether the same services will be offered, what will happen to the current employees who work there, what to tell the employees and the parents, and whether the employees would be considered for rehire?

**Mayor Nicholls** stated that the priority from the beginning was to make sure the youth that attend programs at this facility continue to be served, with no interruption in service. The City is currently in discussions with non-profits that would ultimately take over the program, however, the City has no control over those non-profits as far as the employees and the hiring. **Mayor Nicholls**, further stated that Mr. Zazueta is evidence that the program has not closed and the City is working closely with the Salvation Army to make sure that that does not happen. The agreement is a mutual agreement by both parties.

**Mayor Nicholls** thanked Mr. Bryant and the donors that are working hard to try to find a way to cover the cost of settlement. **Mayor Nicholls** reiterated the focus is the children and keeping a Boys and Girls Club type program in that neighborhood. Many generations of men and women have gone through that building and organization and we want to continue that impact for more generations to come. Although the program will not be run by the City of Yuma, if this agreement passes today the City would own the building.

With no further comments or questions **Mayor Nicholls** called for a motion.

**Motion** (Miller/Knight): To approve the settlement agreement as recommended. Voice vote: **approved** 7-0.

## **II. OUTGOING COUNCILMEMBER CEREMONY**

**Mayor Nicholls** recognized outgoing Councilmembers Thomas and Miller stating that is has been a great honor to work with them both and presented them with mounted badges with their names on them.

**Councilmember Thomas** and **Councilmember Miller** each were given an opportunity to say a few words.

There being no further business, **Mayor Nicholls** adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m. No additional Executive Session was held.

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Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

APPROVED:

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Douglas J. Nicholls, Mayor

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