

MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, YUMA CITY HALL
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA
SEPTEMBER 1, 2020
4:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nicholls called the City Council meeting to order at 4:36 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: Shelton, Morris, Watts, Knight, McClendon, Shoop, and Mayor Nicholls
Councilmembers Absent: None
Staffmembers Present: City Administrator, Philip A. Rodriguez
Various Department Heads or their representative
City Attorney, Richard W. Files
City Clerk, Lynda L. Bushong

I. MOTION CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Consent Agenda Item 1 – Intergovernmental Agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) with Regional Council of Ramat Negev, Israel (to explore and build a collaborative international effort towards resolving common problems and issues)

Rodriguez provided background on the development of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as follows:

- Regional Councils are one of three types of local government entities in Israel which represent anywhere from three to 54 communities.
- The Regional Council of Ramat Negev (Ramat Negev) is the largest in Israel, covering about 20% of the entire country's geography, and is home to the Ramat Negev AgroResearch Center.
- In November 2019, Governor Ducey and the Arizona Commerce Authority set up the Arizona-Israel Trade and Investment Office in Tel Aviv, Israel – the first of its kind outside of Mexico.
- The proposed MOU seeks first to build a partnership and collaboration between the City of Yuma and Ramat Negev with a focus on areas such as desert agriculture, digital agricultural technologies, water preservation technologies, aerospace technologies, and tourism.
- The MOU does not include any type of financial commitment by the City and essentially serves as a 'handshake' to create an alliance between the City and Ramat Negev.

Mayor Nicholls added that this is a great opportunity because there is no cost or obligation to the City other than to build a relationship with a community very similar to Yuma. The Yuma Center of Excellence for Desert Agriculture is already working on two grants that would benefit both countries. One of the grants involves micro communication satellites that are used to cover areas without sufficient internet connectivity, and the other focuses on agricultural production.

Shoop asked if the private sector would provide any matching funds required for the grants. **Mayor Nicholls** replied that the grants are not City grants and will be completely taken care of by the private sector, from application to matching funds. There is no financial commitment from the City.

Motion (Knight/McClendon): To approve the Motion Consent Agenda as recommended. Voice vote: **approved** 7-0.

A. Approval of Staff Recommendations:

1. Authorize an Intergovernmental Agreement in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Regional Council of Ramat Negev, Israel

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion (Shoop/Knight): To adjourn the meeting to Executive Session. Voice vote: **adopted** 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Douglas J. Nicholls, Mayor