

MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, YUMA CITY HALL
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA
MARCH 17, 2021
5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nicholls called the City Council meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE

Pastor Tom Burks, Stoneridge Church, gave the invocation. **Alyssa Linville**, Assistant Director and Zoning Administrator of Community Development, led the City Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: Shelton, Morris, Watts, Knight, McClendon, Shoop, and Mayor Nicholls
Councilmembers Absent: None
Staffmembers Present: City Administrator, Philip A. Rodriguez
Director of Public Works, Joel Olea
Director of Engineering, Jeff Kramer
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 agenda related items from members of the audience.

PRESENTATIONS

Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) Course Briefing

Colonel Charles Dudik, Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma, thanked the City for their partnership and continued support of critical training activities in Yuma.

Colonel Steve Gillette, Commanding Officer, Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One (MAWTS-1), noted that there will be a slight change in the landing zones this year with the addition of Arizona Western College (AWC) and removal of Centennial Middle School. He thanked the City for their support and introduced **Captain Kyle Olsen**, Evolution Coordinator, Assault Support Tactics 3 (AST-3), to provide specifics on the operation.

Captain Olsen provided the following overview:

- April 15, 2021
 - Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) in Twentynine Palms, CA
 - Foreign Humanitarian Assistance (FHA) in Yuma

- Purpose
 - Provide WTI students with realistic training for missions they may execute in real-world contingency operations
- Aviation Participation
 - Over 30 aircraft involved (five in Yuma)
 - UH-1Y Huey and CH-53 Super Stallion
 - Flight window of 4:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
- FHA Overview
 - Landing Zones
 - AWC
 - Kiwanis Park
 - Yuma Regional Medical Center
 - Crane Middle School
 - Aux II (South Yuma)
 - Aux IV (Rolle)
- Safety and Environment
 - At each site:
 - MAWTS-1 Site Commanders
 - At each site 30 minutes prior to start
 - Responsible for ensuring site is clean prior to departure
 - Marine Expeditionary Firefighting and Rescue
 - Yuma Police Department and Military Police
 - Environmental:
 - Drip pans placed beneath forklifts at Kiwanis Park
 - Limited vehicle movement for grass preservation
 - No ordnance will be carried on any aircraft or personnel
- Spectators
 - Role players will be in civilian clothes and wearing reflective belts
 - Please follow instructions and/or directions of local authorities and exercise personnel

Discussion

- The landing zone at AWC will be located on the practice field and will be visible to spectators from the road on campus (**Mayor Nicholls/Captain Olsen**)

COVID-19 Wastewater Testing

Paul Brierly, Executive Director, University of Arizona (UofA) Yuma Center of Excellence for Desert Agriculture (YCEDA), presented the following information regarding the YCEDA and the COVID-19 Early Warning Workforce/Community Protection Project:

- YCEDA
 - Public-private partnership between UofA and the agriculture industry
 - Located at the UofA Yuma Agricultural Center
- Purpose of Wastewater Testing
 - Provide advance notice of a COVID-19 outbreak before symptoms appear
 - Technology has been around for a long time and has been used to look for outbreaks of diseases such as polio

- Wastewater Based Epidemiology (WBE)
 - Monitoring whole communities for a virus via analysis within a wastewater treatment plant
 - Quantifies total virus load shed by infected individuals, whether symptomatic or asymptomatic
 - Virus detected in sewage seven days prior to onset of symptoms
 - WBE answers questions such as:
 - Is the virus in any given community?
 - At what level?
 - Is it increasing or decreasing?
 - Healthcare officials have a week's lead to respond and prepare for a coming outbreak of infections, illnesses and deaths
 - Correlation of sewage concentrations of virus with the number of cases, hospitalizations and deaths allows for predictions of future infection rates
 - Monitoring for new surges, including variants
- Uses of WBE
 - Any defined community where sewage can be sampled
 - Municipalities
 - Schools
 - Student dormitories
 - Military bases
 - Tribal nations
 - Healthcare facilities
 - Farmworker crews (via portable restrooms)
- Case Study: UofA Student Dormitories
 - Wastewater testing at dormitories detected COVID-19 prior to the presence of symptoms in students and signaled the need for clinical testing
 - Multiple positive clinical test results followed, which led to the quarantining of several asymptomatic students
 - The early warning provided by the wastewater testing and the preventative action taken averted an outbreak in what would typically be a superspreading environment
- Progress in Yuma County since August 2020
 - COVID-19 donation from T&P Farms
 - Consultation on WBE with the Water & Energy Sustainable Technology (WEST) Center
 - YCEDA Lab set up at the Yuma Agricultural Center
 - \$220,000 funded by Yuma County
 - Three new employees staffing the lab
 - Datepac and AWC outbreaks averted
 - County-wide monitoring and response
 - \$500,000 funded by Arizona Department of Health Services
 - Brad Schmitz hired as YCEDA Visiting Researcher
 - Municipalities, Public Health, Schools, Hospital
 - Public alert after Superbowl/President's Day weekend
 - School pilot project underway
 - \$54,000 funded by Yuma County
 - Elementary, Middle, High Schools, College
 - Variant monitoring underway at the WEST Center
- Case Study: Datepac
 - Date packing facility with 200 employees
 - Two sampling events with positive wastewater
 - December 2, 2020 – four positive asymptomatic

- February 24, 2021 – one positive asymptomatic
 - Averted an outbreak in an agricultural facility
- Yuma County Pilot Project
 - Objective
 - Assess wastewater-based epidemiology as an early-warning tool for identifying high or increasing COVID-19 prevalence throughout Yuma County communities, allowing targeted response plans to focus resources on susceptible communities
 - Benefits of Localized Surveillance
 - Identify ‘hot spots’ for prioritized sampling
 - Characterize community health by geographic location
 - Allows for targeted response
 - Yuma County Localized Surveillance
 - Sampling two times per week from designated sites (Monday/Thursday)

Municipality	Sample Location	Estimated Population
City of Yuma (85364, 85365)	North Yuma	4,725
	Desert Dunes	8,721
	Midtown	19,000
Foothills (85367)	Section 14	11,459
	Oro Plant	4,508
	Marwood	8,928
San Luis (85349, 85336)	West WWTP	?
	East WWTP	?
	Gadsden	?
Somerton (85350)	Somerton WWTP	18,039
Wellton (85356)	Wellton WWTP	1,000-2,000

- Results interpretations (Tuesday/Friday)
- Case Study: Yuma Foothills
 - On February 18th, increasing levels of COVID-19 were detected from the Foothills Oro Plant sample location
 - A notice was sent out on February 19th alerting residents and providing information on testing locations
 - Reduced concentrations were subsequently found at the end of February and beginning of March; the alert was lifted on March 4th
- Next Steps
 - Schools
 - Composite sampling from manholes during school hours
 - Variant Monitoring
 - WEST Center
 - Positive detection from samples in Florida (UK variant)
 - Early warning for ‘vaccine booster’ variants
 - Border Communities
 - WBE provides route to monitor transmission across populations

Discussion

- While schools are currently a top priority, YCEDA is willing to work with companies interested in implementing a wastewater testing program (**Mayor Nicholls/Brierly**)
- In the case of the COVID-19 detected on February 18th in the Yuma Foothills, free COVID testing was made available to the residents. Information on the number of residents who were tested is not available due to testing being completed by a private company (**Knigh/Brierly**)
- The sensitivity of the wastewater testing is quite high; it is possible to find one positive in a community of 10,000 residents (**Watts/Brierly**)
- The main purpose of quantification is to determine whether the presence of COVID-19 is increasing or decreasing in any particular area (**Morris/Brierly**)
- Wastewater testing for individual companies began in November 2020, communitywide testing was initiated in February 2021, and school testing began this week (**Morris/Brierly**)
- A ‘heat map’ is in progress which will show wastewater testing results for areas throughout Yuma County and will be updated twice a week (**Morris/Brierly**)
- YCEDA quantifies the amount of virus present in a collected sample; by utilizing a model and imputing a number of factors, it is possible to estimate the number infected in a given area (**Mayor Nicholls/Brierly**)
- Wastewater testing is a tool that can help monitor the efficacy of different measures such as vaccinations, social distancing, or remote learning (**McClendon/Brierly**)
- State funding for community monitoring will continue through the month of June, and funding for school monitoring will continue through this school year; at that point, it will be assessed whether monitoring continues to be necessary (**McClendon/Brierly**)

Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Federal Agenda

Ron Hamm, President of Hamm Consulting Group, appearing via Zoom, presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Federal Agenda as follows:

- Community and Economic Development
 - Increase funding for Community Development Block Grants, HOME Investment Partnership Programs, Rental Assistance Programs, and Homeless Assistance Programs
 - Fund programs that remove blight and revitalize underserved neighborhoods
 - Yuma Multiversity Development
 - Hotel Del Sol redevelopment as an anchor for Riverfront Development
 - Yuma Spaceport Project
- Public Infrastructure
 - Transportation
 - Intelligent Transportation System Implementation
 - Yuma Multimodal Transportation Center (Hotel Del Sol)
 - 32nd Street Transportation Corridor improvements
 - Water
 - West Mesa Area Drainage Study
 - Protection of Colorado River Rights
 - Telecommunications
 - Deployment of High-Speed Fiber Network to Bridge Digital Divide

- Public Safety
 - Police
 - Crime Lab and Tactical Training Facility
 - Assistance for local law enforcement funding for community policing programs
 - Support competitive grant applications from the Yuma Police Department
 - Fire
 - Assistance to Firefighter Grants
 - Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant
- Quality of Life
 - Yuma Parks and Recreation
 - Yuma East Wetlands Conservation
 - Quechan Riverfront Park
 - Support funding and legislation that improves parks and recreational opportunities while creating and sustaining healthy livable communities
 - Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area (YCNHA)
 - YCNHA Reauthorization
 - National Heritage Area Program Legislation
 - Stabilized Funding for the National Parks Service National Heritage Program
 - Immigration Reform that alleviates pressure on local resources

Discussion

- While some issues such as immigration continue to be controversial, there are opportunities for cooperation and compromise with infrastructure and community projects (**Shoop/Hamm**)
- Regarding the Yuma Spaceport Project, a number of things would need to happen in terms of land acquisition and infrastructure. A potential land exchange is in the works, and a number of other preparations are being made in anticipation of the final application to the Federal Aviation Administration (**Shelton/Hamm/Rodriguez**)
- The relocation of the Yuma County Fairground has been studied and at this point comes down to funding; it is an extremely important asset to our community and deserves a place on the agenda (**Mayor Nicholls/Hamm**)

I. MOTION CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Consent Agenda Item B.5 – Final Plat: AHDC Magnolia Avenue Phase Two Subdivision (located at the northeast corner of Magnolia Avenue and 5th Street) (DCD)

Morris declared a potential conflict of interest on Motion Consent Agenda Item B.5 and left the dais.

Motion (Knight/Watts): To approve Motion Consent Agenda Item B.5. Voice vote: **approved** 6-0-1, **Morris** abstaining due to potential conflict of interest.

Morris returned to the dais.

Motion Consent Agenda Item B.3 – Award: Asphalt Sealcoat Materials (contract with SealMaster-Arizona with an estimated annual expenditure of \$200,000.00) (RFB-21-114) (Public Works)

Discussion

- This contract is for materials needed for the process commonly known as ‘fog seal’ that is used to preserve newer pavement that is still in relatively good condition (**Shoop/Olea**)
- The City purchased a vehicle last fiscal year that will allow Public Works to apply the sealcoat material itself (**Knight/Olea**)

Motion Consent Agenda B.2 – Bid Award: 2nd Avenue Reconstruction - 8th Street to 13th Street (contract for construction services with DPE Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$1,225,558.00) (Bid #2021-20000074) (Engineering)

Discussion

- Not all aspects of the project are allocated to the Improvement District; the extent that the reduced bid will impact the residents depends on which items were priced lower by the contractor (**Watts/Kramer**)
- Based on the initial estimate, the amount that would be allocated to the Improvement District would be \$249,000, which is considerably less than the cap that the residents anticipated (**Knight/Kramer**)

Motion (Knight/Shelton): To approve the Motion Consent Agenda as recommended with the exception of Item B.5. Voice vote: **approved** 7-0.

A. Approval of minutes of the following City Council meeting:

Council Goal Setting/Special Worksession February 23, 2021

B. Approval of Staff Recommendations:

1. Executive Sessions may be held at the next regularly scheduled Special Worksession, Regular Worksession and City Council Meeting for personnel, legal, litigation and real estate matters pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03 Section A (1), (3), (4), and (7). (City Atty)
2. Authorize the City Administrator to execute a contract for construction services for the 2nd Avenue Reconstruction project, from 8th Street to 13th Street, to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder in the amount of \$1,225,558.00 to: DPE Construction, Inc.; Yuma, Arizona. (Bid #2021-20000074) (Eng)
3. Award to the lowest responsive/responsible bidder, a one-year contract for asphalt sealcoat materials with the option to renew for four additional one-year periods, depending on the appropriation of funds and satisfactory performance, for an estimated expenditure of \$200,000.00 annually to the following vendor: SealMaster-Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona. (RFB-21-114) (PW)

4. Authorize the City Administrator to execute two separate amended Subrecipient Agreements with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security for reimbursement of funds expended for overtime, mileage, and equipment for activities in support of Operation Stonegarden. (YPD)
5. Pulled for separate consideration – see above.

II. RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA

Motion (McClendon/Knight): To adopt the Resolution Consent Agenda as recommended.

Bushong displayed the following titles:

Resolution R2021-004

A resolution of the City Council of the City of Yuma, Arizona, authorizing and approving a Development Agreement permitting the deferral of City of Yuma Development Fees and water and sanitary sewer capacity charges for Park West Unit No. 5 Subdivision (allows for the collection of a \$500.00 administrative fee and defines the length of the deferral agreement for three years from date of execution) (ENG)

Resolution R2021-005

A resolution of the City Council of the City of Yuma, Arizona, authorizing and approving the execution of a Preannexation Development Agreement with the owner of real property located west of 557 South Vaughn Avenue (the owners desire to construct a single-family home on the subject property and have requested water and sewer service from the City) (DCD)

Roll call vote: **adopted** 7-0.

FINAL CALL

Mayor Nicholls made a final call for the submission of Speaker Request Forms from members of the audience interested in speaking at the Call to the Public.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHEDULING

Announcements

Knight, Watts, McClendon, and **Mayor Nicholls** reported on events and meetings they have attended during the last two weeks and upcoming events of note.

Scheduling - No meetings were scheduled at this time.

IV. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

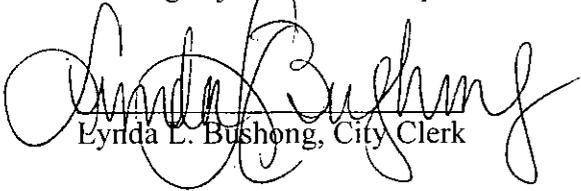
Rodriguez reported the following events:

- The City's new utility electronic payment service will roll out within the next week; residents and businesses that pay their bill electronically will receive an email with information on how to continue making those payments with the new service provider
- Disconnects for nonpayment of water accounts will resume on April 15th; assistance is available through Yuma Cares/Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG)
- The Parks & Recreation Activities Guide is now available online; City resident registration opens March 22nd; and, general registration opens on March 29th
- Starting March 29th, Public Works will oversee application of sealant to City streets which will continue through the first week of May

V. CALL TO THE PUBLIC – No speakers were scheduled at this time.

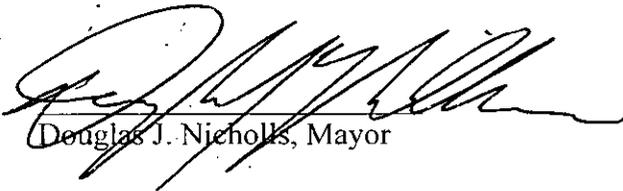
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

Motion (Knight/McClendon): To adjourn the meeting to Executive Session. Voice vote: **adopted** 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.



Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

APPROVED:



Douglas J. Nicholls, Mayor

Approved at the City Council Meeting of: <u>April 7, 2021</u>
City Clerk: <u>[Signature]</u>