

MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, YUMA CITY HALL
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA
APRIL 3, 2024
5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nicholls called the City Council meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE

Pastor Paula Milner, Yuma First Assembly of God, gave the invocation. **Christopher Grant**, Water Quality & Compliance Manager, led the City Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: Morales, Smith, Knight, Morris, Shoop, and Mayor Nicholls
Councilmembers Absent: Shelton
Staffmembers Present: Acting City Administrator, John D. Simonton
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

City of Yuma's 110th Birthday Celebration

Mayor Nicholls read a proclamation celebrating the City of Yuma's 110th year of serving the community after being chartered as a city under the laws of the new State of Arizona on April 7th, 1914. **Mayor Nicholls** invited the community to attend the 110th Birthday Celebration taking place April 13, 2024, on Main Street, in Historic Downtown Yuma.

Month of the Military Child Proclamation

Mayor Nicholls read a proclamation declaring April 2024 Month of the Military Child. The proclamation recognizes and honors the sacrifices and contributions of military-connected children who serve alongside their parents and guardians. In addition, it will serve as a reminder to all citizens to express gratitude and appreciation to military families for their sacrifices and service to our nation.

I. MOTION CONSENT AGENDA

Motion (Morris/Morales): To approve the Motion Consent Agenda as recommended. Voice vote: **approved** 6-0.

A. Approval of minutes of the following City Council meeting(s):

Regular Council Worksession Minutes February 20, 2024

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2024

B. Executive Session

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)

C. Approval of Staff Recommendations

1. Approve a Series #07: Beer and Wine Bar Location/Owner Transfer Liquor License application submitted by Jesus Alexis Orozco Avendano, agent for Tacos & Mariscos Costa Baja located at 1150 W. 24th Street. (LL24-02) (Admn/Clk)

II. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES CONSENT AGENDA

Motion (Knight/Smith): To adopt the Ordinances Consent Agenda as recommended.

Bushong displayed the following title(s):

Ordinance O2024-011

An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Yuma, Arizona, amending Chapter 154 of the Yuma City Code, as amended, relating to zoning regulations, providing for changes to the zoning code to amend the lot coverage, setbacks, open space requirements, and height allowances for certain residential districts (update development standards, allow new development opportunities, and encourage an increase in residential density) (Plng & Nbhd Svcs/Cmty Plng)

Roll call vote: **adopted** 6-0.

III. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Bushong displayed the following title(s):

Ordinance O2024-012

An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Yuma, Arizona, amending section 191-02 of the Yuma City Code, as amended, relating to local limits for industrial discharges to the publicly owned treatment works and ratifying the current formatting, lettering and numbering of Yuma City Code Chapter 191 (update the existing wastewater Local Limits in accordance with the finding of the Local Limits Figueroa Avenue Water Pollution Control Facility Report) (Utl/Admn)

IV. POTENTIAL CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Discussion

- Pursuant to State Law, the City consolidated its elections to even-numbered years a few years ago to align with state and federal elections; this caused a drastic change in the number of people voting. In accordance with the City Charter calculations, this resulted in the number of signatures required on candidate petitions to be much higher than it ever has been. A change in the number of required signatures should be considered. (**Simonton**)

Speaker

- **Patrick Cooley**, City resident, spoke in support of a salary increase for the Mayor and City Council. **Cooley** held meetings with several City of Yuma business owners and community members to receive input on the salary increase; there he found overwhelming support of the salary increase. **Cooley** is working on a comparison of salaries of the Mayor and City Council of other cities within the state of Arizona, and he is hoping to have data to share at an upcoming City Council meeting.

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.

V. APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHEDULING

Announcements

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

Mayor Nicholls noted the Commissioner of Bureau of Reclamation, Camille Calimlim Touton, visited the City of Yuma on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, to present a five-million-dollar check to the Yuma East Wetlands to help upgrade infrastructure and replace diesel pumps with electrical pumps.

Mayor Nicholls discussed a few bills currently going through the State Legislature.

- The Yuma City Council supports Senate Bill 1162 and House Bill 2297.
- House Bill 2720 and House Bill 2721 still have some minor details to clear up before City Council can fully support these bills.
- Senate Bill 1506 and House Bill 2584 are closely being tracked by City Council; approval of these bills will bypass local level input and place the decision making at the State level.
- Stryker Bills are closely monitored by City Council since these bills can change overnight, and bills that may have been defeated can quickly come back with no time for input.

Scheduling – No meetings were scheduled at this time.

VI. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Simonton reported the following events:

- The Spring Slurry Seal Program remains in effect and will impact 24th Street between Avenue A and Avenue B this week. **Simonton** suggested motorists avoid the area if possible.
- A four-way stop will be installed at Avenue C and 12th Street to help with ongoing safety issues in the area. A traffic signal light will be installed in the future.
- April 13th – Yuma's 110th Birthday Celebration in Downtown Yuma
- April 11th – Yuma Parks and Recreation Arbor Day at Carver Park
- April 13th – Household Hazardous Waste event at the Public Works Facility
- April 17th – State of the City at the Pivot Point Conference Center

Simonton reminded the community to submit their Parks, Arts, Recreation, and Trails (P.A.R.T) Phase II Master Plan survey by the April 5th deadline.

VII. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Rose McCammond, City resident, spoke regarding the need of repaving the road on County 17th between Avenue 3E and 4E which leads to the KOFA Ko-op Retreat RV campground.

The following people requested the City of Yuma adopt a Resolution calling for the release of hostages and ceasefire in Gaza:

- **Jennifer Reger**, City resident
- **Holly Danielle**, City resident
- **Charlene Young**, City resident
- **Sinai Lopez**, City resident
- **Cynthia Tovar**, City resident
- **Karla Sanchez**, City resident
- **Alea Hassin**, City resident
- **Jillian Verdugo**, City resident
- **Daisy Hernandez**, City resident
- **Layla Hassin**, non-resident

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

Motion (Knight/Morales): To adjourn the meeting to Executive Session. Voice vote: **approved** 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Douglas J. Nicholls, Mayor

Approved at the City Council Meeting of: _____ City Clerk: _____
--