

MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, YUMA CITY HALL
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA
DECEMBER 4, 2024
5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Morris called the City Council meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE

Pastor Michael Black, Morningside Southern Baptist Church, gave the invocation. **Jennifer Albers**, Assistant Director of Planning, led the City Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

FINAL CALL

Deputy Mayor Morris made a final call for the submission of Speaker Request Forms for agenda related items from members of the audience.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present:	Morales, Smith, McClendon, Morris, Shoop, and Shelton
Councilmembers Absent:	Mayor Nicholls
Staffmembers Present:	Acting City Administrator, John D. Simonton Director of Parks & Recreation, Eric Urfer Various Department Heads or their representative City Attorney, Richard W. Files City Clerk, Lynda L. Bushong

FINAL CALL

Deputy Mayor Morris made a final call for the submission of Speaker Request Forms for items from members of the audience.

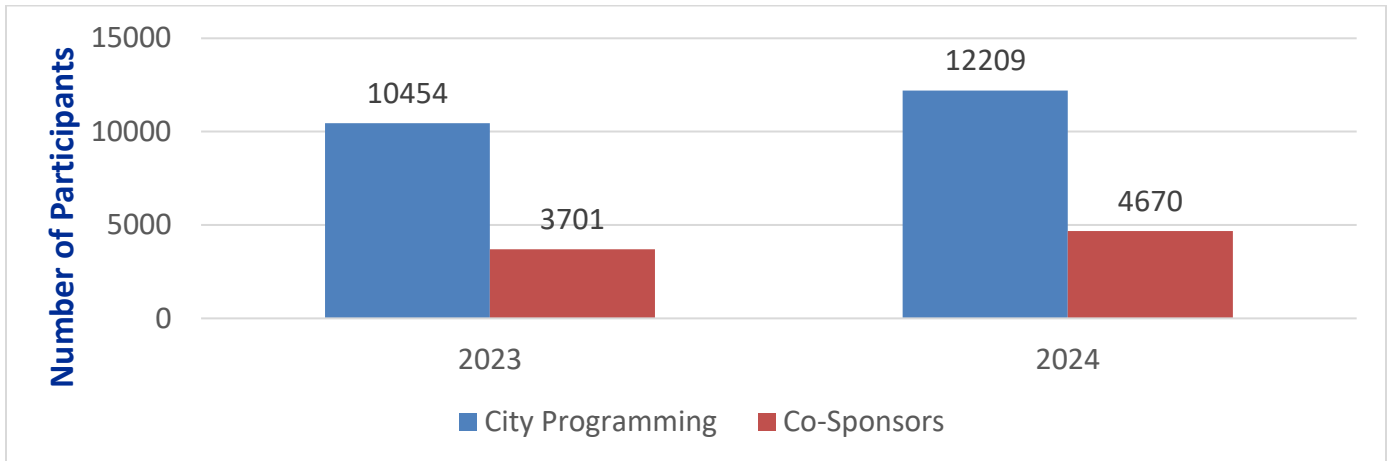
Presentation

Urfer presented the following Parks & Recreation update:

- Mission
 - Enriching lives through quality programs, experiences, and facilities that preserve the past, provide for the present, plan for the future and promote the spirit of fun.
- Staffing
 - A couple vacancies within the Parks & Recreation leadership team
 - Assistant Director – will begin recruiting after the first of the year
 - Division Manager/Civic Center – actively engaged in filling this position
- Parks & Recreation is made up of six division, all working together to produce department programming, coordinate public use of parks and facilities, and perform the overall maintenance of the park system:

- Parks Division	- Administration
- Arts & Culture	- Yuma Civic Center
- Recreation Division	- Desert Hills Golf Courses

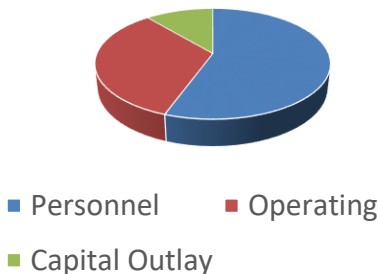
- Recreation program registration has increased by 16% over the past year.



Urfer noted that the usage numbers are far greater than those that are just registered participants, as the 16% does not include the number of drop-in participants of various parks, park facilities, trails. Nor does it account for all the kids playing on competitive teams but utilizing City fields.

- Reservations at the Civic Center, Art Center, the Readiness Center, ball fields and Ramada rentals have remained steady.
 - Several facilities are booked or at capacity, which unfortunately makes it difficult to accommodate all the facility requests received.
- Parks & Recreation is supported by the following funding sources:
 - General fund
 - 2% fund
 - Mall Maintenance funds
 - Grant funding
 - Fees and Charges
 - Donations
- Fiscal year 2024-2025 Budget

2025 Budget



- Total Budget of \$19,609,076
 - Personnel = \$10,455,988
 - Operating = \$6,944,134
 - Capital Outlay = \$2,208,954

Urfer noted that the department works closely with the Parks, Arts, and Recreation Commission, as the commissioners serve as our eyes and ears in the community. Some of their tasks include:

- Developing various administrative policies, recommending proposals for ordinance changes, and providing valuable feedback during the development of specialized programs, such as the Park Patrol Program and the Adopt a Park/Spot Programs
- Approving public art concepts and choosing award winners for the City's Tribute of the Muses.
- Assisting with this past years Parks, Arts, Recreation and Trails Master Plan, commonly known as the P.A.R.T. Master Plan

- P.A.R.T. Master Plan
 - Serves as a 10-year functional and strategic plan
 - Developed with significant input and direction from the Yuma residents
 - Includes system inventories, community profiles, needs analysis and capital project list
 - Established Parks & Recreation Guiding Principles, action items, implementation strategies and timelines

Urfer stated that through public input received during preparation of the P.A.R.T. Master Plan, the number one priority residents expressed was that they wanted the City to maintain what they currently have and invest in improving the condition of the parks. To meet this request the City has:

- Initiated numerous improvements to park infrastructure, including electrical repairs, irrigation system repairs and addressing restroom plumbing issues
- Replaced nine playgrounds and two more are scheduled for replacement this Spring.
- Replaced two restrooms
- Renovated the in-line hockey rink
- Revitalized the sand volleyball court complex
- Reconstructed Kennedy Skate Park (underway)
- Secured a grant to replace the entire irrigation system at both the championship course and the par three course at Desert Hills
- Replaced picnic tables and grills, as well as restoring many of the ramadas
- Created ADA pathways
- Installed inclusive play pieces, when possible
- Added air conditioning to the Readiness Center to add more programming space during the summer months
- Constructed four new Pickleball Courts
- Installed lights on fields at Ray Kroc Sports Complex to make more field time available
- Moved forward with the first phase of the East Mesa Community Park
 - The park will include many shade structures, inclusive play pieces, a modest amphitheater and a two-acre lake that will be in the forefront of the park.

Continuing, **Urfer** noted the P.A.R.T. Plan reminds us to do more to celebrate arts and culture within the community. To address this element, staff is seeking low-cost grant opportunities to fund a public art plan. Parks & Recreation will also continue to support the summer mural program and will be releasing a call for artists to place a new sculpture within the round-about at the Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex (PAAC), that will be funded through existing donations.

Urfer stated the P.A.R.T. Plan guidelines call for us to accomplish a lot in the present, but also tells us to be mindful of our future. Completion of the plan is one large accomplishment; in addition, the Asset Management Software approved by City Council specifically addresses the need for parks to manage the inventory today, and well as into the future. **Urfer** provided the following future plans:

- Develop some short-term sustainability plans as part of the current budget process
- Collaborate with City administration to develop a long-term funding plan to not only accomplish what the plan calls for, but to sustain it into the future.

In closing, **Urfer** informed City Council of some upcoming key dates:

December 14	Unveiling of two new inclusive play pieces recently installed at the Stuart Vincent Wolf playground
December 14	Ribbon cutting at the West Wetlands newest passive park area
January 4	Ribbon cutting at the new Kennedy Skate Park
January 4	Celebration of the recent renovations to the inline hockey rink and Kennedy Sand Volleyball Court complex
January 6	Groundbreaking for the new East Mesa Community Park
March	Irrigation replacement project will begin at Desert Hills Golf Course

Discussion

- Six replacement shades structures have recently been installed in various City parks, with the long-term plan to have shade cover in all the parks. (**Morris/Urfer**)
- The ground covering at the new East Mesa Community Park is the same as what is at the Stewart Vincent Wolf playground. It is very accommodating to wheelchairs and mobility devices, and works well for inclusive type environments. (**McClendon/Urfer**)
- The new playground at Joe Henry has partial surfacing for mobility devices, specifically where there is a designated entry/exit point, which will also be a feature of Kennedy Park as well. (**McClendon/Urfer**)
- The ramadas are in use almost every weekend. (**Shoop/Urfer**)
- The kayak events are very popular and fill up fast. However, Parks & Recreation does not have a kayak rental program. (**Shoop/Urfer**)
- The City is working with the County to determine a time frame to get Smucker Park back into usage. The water has been off for the past month and is causing issues with our ability to maintain the turf and trees. It is likely to be a long process, but a revitalization plan is forthcoming. (**Shoop/Urfer**)
 - For the record, this issue stems from a County construction project at the park. (**Morris**)
- Anyone who is interested, individuals or groups, can apply to Adopt-a-Park and/or Adopt-aSpot. Staff will meet with the applicant and decide which size/type area works best for them, then Parks & Recreation will support the efforts by providing trash bags, gloves and other supplies. Parks & Recreation would like to see attention to the Adopt-a-Park's on a quarterly basis; however, the Adopt-a-Spot will likely need more frequent attention. (**Smith/Urfer**)
- Regarding the water features requested through the P.A.R.T. Plan, Parks & Recreation and Administration will need to further discuss the cost and how to implement the funding it will require. (**Morales/ Urfer**)
- The East Mesa Park is part of a promise City Council made to the community after the voters approved the renewal of the 2% Hospitality Tax. (**Shelton**)

I. MOTION CONSENT AGENDA

Motion (Smith/McClendon): 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 Meeting Minutes	November 6, 2024
Special Council Meeting Minutes	November 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 Liquor License application submitted by Andrea Lewkowitz, agent for Residence Inn Yuma located at 1688 S. Sunridge Drive. (LL24-16) (Admn/Cty Clk)
2. Approve a contract for traffic signal electrical services needed for a functioning Intelligent Transportation System on four corridors: 16th Street Corridor (from Pacific Ave to Avenue C); 4th Ave Corridor (from 1st Street to 32nd Street); Avenue B Corridor (from 8th Street to 32nd Street); and, 24th Street Corridor (from Arizona Avenue to Avenue B) to Westmoor Electric, Inc., Yuma, Arizona, for an expenditure of \$114,160.00 (RFQ-22-181) (Eng/Purch)
3. Authorize the use of a Strategic Alliance for Volume Expenditures (SAVE) Cooperative Purchase Agreement for software and services supporting the regional school safety interoperability system for an estimated total amount of \$1,265,956.55 (GNT-25-202) (IT/Purch)

II. RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA

Motion (Morales/Smith): To adopt the Resolution Consent Agenda as recommended.

Bushong displayed the following title(s):

Resolution R2024-067

A resolution of the City Council of the City of Yuma, Arizona, authorizing the City Administrator to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Yuma Brownfields Assessment Coalition consisting of Yuma County, City of San Luis, Yuma Multiversity Campus dba Elevate Southwest, and Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area for the FY 2025 Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields grant application (to support the EPA FY2025 Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant application and oversee project implementation) (Eng/Admn)

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

III. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES CONSENT AGENDA

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

Bushong displayed the following title(s):

Ordinance O2024-039

An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Yuma, Arizona, authorizing the acceptance of Gift Property (located between Avenue 7½ E and 7¾E approximately centered along the USBR “A” Canal with power easements on the Southeast edge of the canal) (Eng)

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

IV. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Bushong displayed the following title(s):

Ordinance O2024-040

An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Yuma, Arizona, amending Chapter 154 of the Yuma City Code to comply with State Statute (to address timelines for the review of zoning, variance and conditional use permit applications) (Plng & Nbhd Svcs/Cmtty Plng)

Ordinance O2024-041

An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Yuma, Arizona, amending Chapter 154 of the Yuma City Code, rezoning certain property located in the Medium Density Single-Family Residential (R-2-5) District to the Medium Density Residential/Planned Unit Development (R-2/PUD) District, and amending the zoning map to conform with the rezoning (rezoning of approximately 28.5 acres at the southeast corner of S. Avenue 7E and 40th Street) (Plng & Nbhd Svcs/Cmtty Plng)

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHEDULING

Announcements

Smith, Morales, Shelton and Morris reported on the following meetings attended and upcoming events:

- Northern Arizona University Yuma Class Guest Speaker
- Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG) Annual Executive Board Meeting
- Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
- Cleanup at West Wetlands Park
- Clean and Beautiful Commission Meeting
- BetterYuma.org Meeting
- Ken and Betty Borland Holiday Pageant and Tower Lighting
- Mexican Consulate Meeting
- Ag Tech Farm Property Tour
- Volunteer Crossroads Mission on Thanksgiving Day

Scheduling

Motion (Smith/Morales): To cancel the January 1, 2025 City Council Meeting due to the New Year's Day holiday. Voice vote: **approved** 6-0.

VI. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Simonton reported the following events:

- December 7, 2024 – Downtown Christmas
- December 7, 2024 – Pajama Snooze Fun Run & Walk 5K/10K
- December 14, 2024 – Unveiling of New Inclusive Play Equipment at the West Wetlands Park

VII. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Robert Valleni, City resident, spoke about a Suicide Prevention Program that is provided by his daughter, retired Colonel Dr. Alyssa Madison, who is recognized as an expert in the field.

Randy Sypolt, City resident, spoke about the road racing that is taking place in his neighborhood and stated the car involved in one of three recent accidents due to this racing, came through his backyard. He asked for the City's assistance to stop the racing.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, **Deputy Mayor Morris** adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m. No Executive Session was held.

Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Douglas J. Nicholls, Mayor

Approved at the City Council Meeting of:

City Clerk: _____