

MINUTES
REGULAR WORKSESSION
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, YUMA CITY HALL
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA
June 16, 2009
5:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nelson called the City Council meeting to order.

Councilmembers Present: Shoop, Mendoza, Beeson, McClendon, Hieb, Johnson and Mayor Nelson
Councilmembers Absent: none
Staffmembers Present: City Administrator, Mark Watson
Executive Director, Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Corporation, Charles Flynn
Economic Development Program Manager, Pete Erlenbach
City Attorney, Steve Moore
Director of Finance, Pat Wicks
Director of Parks and Recreation, Becky Chavez
Director of Engineering, Paul Brooberg
Various department heads or their representatives
City Clerk, Brigitta M. Kuiper

I. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Watson: The City has received Governor Brewer's Certificate of Approval for the Yuma Charter amendment concerning the recent 2% Hospitality Tax renewal by voters.

II. REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA OF JUNE 17, 2009

McClendon asked for more information about resolutions R2009-34 and R2009-32.

Resolution R2009-34: SAFETEA-LU Enhancement Grant Funds - Expansion of Yuma's Multi-Use Pathway System

Flynn: For a number of years, the City has received approximately \$500,000 annually in Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation, Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) Enhancement Grant funds, which, with a City match, have as been used to build most of the multi-use pathways in the community. This grant application requests funding for the final extension of the pathway system from its current terminus at Gateway Park, beneath the Ocean-to-Ocean Highway Bridge, past Riverside Park and onto the Salinity Canal Levee, following the levee road to Avenue 2E, the current City limits, where a park is planned. Multi-use means bicyclists and walkers can use the pathway. The project will not be budgeted for until 2010-2011.

McClendon: The presentation on the status of the Quartermaster Depot at the June 2, 2009 Regular City Council Worksession has prompted great interest. It is important to keep information flowing to keep the public engaged in the Riverfront area's development.

Resolution R2009-32: Grant Application - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

Erlenbach: The City of Yuma has been awarded a grant of approximately \$855,000 in U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program stimulus funding. To receive the grant, the City must apply through a formal application process identifying the intended projects and relevant goals and strategies. Working with an internal group of staffmembers, three specific projects have been identified. The first is a \$300,000 retrofit of lighting on nine City buildings that will leverage this stimulus funding for Arizona Public Service (APS) energy efficiency rebates. The retrofit is expected to cut City kilowatt usage in these buildings in half, which equates to a smaller carbon footprint – a definite advantage should a carbon tax be enacted.

The second project involves better energy management. The City is partnering with APS to install an energy monitoring system that will record the City's energy usage every 15 minutes. This will give the City a tool to evaluate its energy use and make necessary adjustments. This project will cost approximately \$10,000.

The largest project will involve the installation of photovoltaic solar panels on City Hall. City Hall Facilities personnel have already saved energy consumption in City Hall by 50% through retrofitting the lighting. The goal of the solar panels is to reduce lighting costs in City Hall to zero. This project will use approximately \$450,000 in stimulus funding, which will accrue the City a 30% rebate from APS. The savings will be reinvested in the solar power program, to expand the City's capacity. The City should also receive a 30% federal tax credit rebate, which, again, will be reinvested in the system.

Thus, the City's \$855,000 in stimulus funding will be grown into \$1.4 million total. This money is coming from the federal government – not current City allocations. City staff has developed a Green Team with Greg Stopka as Chairman to develop a more comprehensive City approach to environmental issues; his focus is sustainability. More projects dealing with going green will be forthcoming.

Mayor Nelson asked for additional information on the APS rebates. Is the 30% rebate figured per project? **Erlenbach:** APS is not only the City's electricity provider, but also its partner in energy saving.

Watson: The City's lobbyist in Washington, D.C. will be monitoring U.S. Department of Energy opportunities in the upcoming year. Staff will be developing a project proposal for the government's consideration during next year's federal budget proposals. **Shoop:** Per the Green Cities Conference, all federal grant proposals will be judged on sustainability and urbanization.

III. CITY OF YUMA 2009-2010 BUDGET AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET

Watson: Tonight's discussion will focus on last minute changes pending adoption of the Preliminary Budget tomorrow, as well as discussion of Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects funded by 2% taxes.

Mayor Nelson drew attention to the lawsuit the Governor has filed against the State legislature over the State budget. **Moore:** Members of the Legislature have delayed forwarding the budget to the Governor until the last minute before the June 30, 2009 deadline so that the Governor will be faced with vetoing it and shutting down the government or signing a budget she disagrees with. The Governor has sued the Legislature in an attempt to force them to send the budget to her now.

Wicks outlined the following changes to the Preliminary Budget:

FY 2010 Preliminary Budget	
(Changes from original presentation)	
Operational	\$ 146,857,805
Changes:	
Police - Helmets purchase	10,500
Convention and Visitors Bureau (2% tax funding)	65,000
Humane Society	12,375
Water - Add two positions	88,139
Public Safety Tax – Capital Project to increase security at Police Department	100,000
Total Operational	147,133,819
Capital Improvements	98,832,673
Changes:	
Bond-Road – Magnolia Avenue	(376,930)
CDBG – Multi-modal Reconstruction	(50,000)
General Fund – West Wetland Mitigation; Reclamation Land Exchange	(45,000)
Grant – Visitors Center	(3,960,000)
Total Capital Improvements	94,400,743
Total Preliminary Budget	\$ 241,534,562

Wicks also pointed out rearrangements in the CIP funding designations, as follows:

Funding Source	CIP#	Project Title	2009/2010	Revised 2009/2010
Bond General General	1.9757	Budget Authority Reserve - General	22,000	1,133,645
	5.9512	Alsco purchase	-	405,000
	1.1002	Software system purchase	-	350,000
	2.0300	Lighting for parks and athletic fields	338,000	338,000
	2.0511	New East area park	581,645	-

	2.0601	Cibloa High School Community Swimming Pool	1,500,000	1,500,000
	2.0700	Purchase of East Mesa area parkland	250,000	-
	2.9806	Park facility improvements	-	1,465,000
	4.9401	Fire Department Training Facility	-	500,000

Wicks noted that the purchase of the AlSCO building was approved by the City Council and in the current year's budget; however, it has not been completed, therefore, it is being brought forward into next year's budget. The software purchase is for software to enhance Community Development services. It, too, was in this year's budget, but not completed, so it is being moved into the proposed budget. The item also includes funds for updated Administrative services software. The vendor has asked the City to act as a Beta Testing site at a greatly reduced cost. Staff has not accepted the offer yet, but it is being explored. The Public Service tax expires in 2015 and all of the debt service on the bonds must be paid off by then.

Heritage Area CIP Projects scheduled for fiscal year 2009/2010:

		2%	Grant	Other	Total
1.003	Yuma Crossing Canal Walk	62,000	500,000		562,000
1.0011	Riverfront Development Master Plan	25,000			25,000
1.0025	West Wetlands Road	131,000	450,000		581,000
1.0300	Multimodal Reconstruction	5,000	2,800,000		2,805,000
1.0500	Downtown/I-8 Trailblazing	100,000	500,000	155,000	755,000
1.0601	Pivot Point Plaza	650,000	750,000		1,400,000
1.0702	Reclamation Land Exchange	200,000			200,000
1.0403	West Wetland Mitigation		40,000		40,000
1.1001	Yuma's Multi-Use Pathway System		\$500,000		\$500,000
	Total	1,173,000	5,540,000	155,000	6,868,000

Flynn detailed each project, adding the following:

- Pivot Point Plaza
 - The \$750,000 grant is comprised of \$250,000 from the State (the subject of an Intergovernmental Agreement with Arizona Department of Transportation up for approval at tomorrow's meeting) and \$500,000 from the federal government.
 - Will connect Gateway Park and Madison Avenue
 - Developed on historic railroad alignment; will tell the history of Yuma crossings through 15 interpretative panels
 - Project completion: 2009
- Canal Walk
 - Walkway that runs on north side of Hilton Garden Inn; will complete walkway paths along Riverfront
 - Project design is 50% completed.
 - Project completion: 2010
- West Wetlands Multi-Use Path and Road
 - Will take infrastructure to west side of West Wetlands Park

- A \$500,000 federal grant was received in a prior fiscal year to build a multi-use bike path that would the length of the park; it will be built along the alignment of the future road.
 - Pathway will be lighted and landscaped
 - Project at 50% design
 - Project completion: 2010
- Project designs were slowed, pending the 2% Hospitality Tax election results.
- Riverfront personnel will coordinate with Parks and Recreation and Public Works personnel.
- Downtown Trailblazing
 - A signage system to help visitors navigate the various sites.
 - Project completion: 2011
- Reclamation Land Exchange
 - Continues to move forward with land surveys and appraisals
 - An equal exchange is not anticipated; therefore, money has been set aside to complete the exchange.
- Riverfront Master Plan: funds set aside to accommodate any Master Plan changes that may be needed.
- Multi-Modal Reconstruction: funds set aside to make sure the Hotel Del Sol building continues to be secured.

Mayor Nelson noted that the Fallen Officers association would like to have a monument placed at the new amphitheater, when it is built.

Parks and Recreation CIP Projects for fiscal year 2009/2010:

		2%	Bond	Pro-Rata	Dev. Fee	Total
2.0300	Lighting for parks and athletic fields		338,000			338,000
2.0601	Cibola High School community swimming pool; Valley Aquatic Center		1,500,000		440,000	1,940,000
2.9806	Park facility improvements					
	Kennedy Skate Park improvements		175,000			175,000
	Parking lot replacements		290,000			290,000
	Tennis curt replacements		500,000			500,000
	Joe Henry Park restroom and improvements		500,000			500,000
2.9602	Yuma Area Valley Park			419,540		419,540
2.9806	Park facility improvements					
	Development of East Mesa Parkland				250,000	250,000
2.0702	Art Center expansion				280,000	280,000
2.0001	Smucker Park	300,000				
2.0505	West Wetlands improvements	100,000				
2.0507	Lighting at AWC Soccer fields	800,000				
	Total	1,200,000	3,303,000	419,540	970,000	

Chavez detailed the top five projects identified at the Council Retreat that Councilmembers wanted to move forward if the 2% Hospitality Tax passed:

- **Smucker Park**
 - CIP 2.001: Design for Phase 2
 - Pond and walking path surrounding pond

- Path to connect to existing path and have exercise stations
- Support amenities: restrooms/concessions, picnic areas, ramadas
- CIP 2.9806: Paving of parking area off Avenue A – approximately \$300,000 in Bond funds
- West Wetlands Park
 - CIP 2.0505: Completion of bike pathway that would extend utilities to the west side of the park
 - CIP 2.9806: Replacement of paving at Stewart Vincent Wolfe playground
- Arizona Western College (AWC) Partnership for new athletic facilities and park
 - Located between AWC and Gila Ridge High School, to the north of Desert Mesa Elementary School on 24th Street
 - Staff is working with AWC to develop an intergovernmental agreement for the joint use of the 4-plex soccer fields.
 - Gila Ridge High School may be participating
 - CIP 2.0507: Next year's budget will accommodate the lighting of the regulation-sized soccer fields
 - CIP 2.9806: East Mesa Parkland - A park is also planned for the area between Gila Ridge High School and the Readiness Center.
- Yuma Valley Area Park (CIP 2.9602)
 - Not funded by 2% taxes
 - Pro-rata money is available to begin design.

Chavez: Several other projects now become feasible since the 2% Hospitality Tax was renewed that are funded by Bond money, as follows:

- Kennedy Skate Park improvements and expansion (CIP 2.9806)
 - New, large concrete pad
 - Infill of grassy areas to form concrete bowls
- Deyo Complex (CIP 2.9806)
 - Replacement of four tennis courts
 - Civic Center parking lot crack and slurry seal application
 - Arroyo Dune parking lot overlay
- New Aquatic Center (CIP 2.0601)
 - Grand opening: July 2, 2009
 - Development of open space surrounding center with practice fields, ramadas and pathway
- Joe Henry Park
 - CIP 2.9806: Restroom replacement and loop road and small parking area construction
 - CIP 2.0300: Lighting of loop road and install remaining nine park security pole lights
- Yuma Valley Area Park (CIP 2.9602)
 - Design and develop park amenities in basin
- Art Center Expansion (CIP 2.0702)
 - Purchase additional building along Main Street for expansion of programming

Discussion

- **Mayor Nelson:** People have asked for shade structures at the Stewart Vincent Wolfe playground; are any planned?

- **Chavez:** The department has a bid to install a shade structure over the Tot Lots and a shade structure is planned for the area closer to the pond; the interior section of the park would be difficult to shade because of its height.
- **Beeson:** Has any thought been given to changing the angle of entry into the Smucker Park parking lot to deter drivers entering/leaving from the wrong exit?
 - **Chavez:** Staff will take a look at this, especially in light of upcoming repaving.
- **Beeson:** What will the Smucker Pond actually be?
 - **Brooberg:** The pond is actually a spinoff of a larger project – the infrastructure needed to manage stormwater falling in the area from Pacific Avenue to the East Main Canal and 32nd Street to 16th Street. A dam will be constructed on the east side of the East Main Canal in Smucker Park that will create a permanent pond some 3-5 feet deep. The pond will provide a point at which stormwater can be discharged into the East Main Canal. Having a pond on hand will allow irrigation of the park to be done with only one pumping station.
- **Beeson:** Several small groups of people are interested in helping with Kennedy Skate Park; are there any items in storage that could be installed?
 - **Chavez:** Improvements to the park include a skate table, a quarter pipe and a mini-half pipe. A recent Demonstration Day put on by American Ramp Company garnered 200 attendees. Skaters want the availability of synergy between components, which the improvements will provide.
 - **Beeson** indicated he would have the small groups contact Chavez.
 - **Chavez:** Skaters will be involved in future designs and equipment choices for the park.
- **Shoop:** Has the City raised enough money to open the dog park?
 - **Chavez:** The City has raised \$27,000 in private donations specifically for a dog park. A final fundraiser will be held at Doggie Day at Kennedy Pool; thereafter, construction will begin.

Wicks explained upcoming actions needed to complete the budget adoption process.

IV. CITY OF YUMA BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

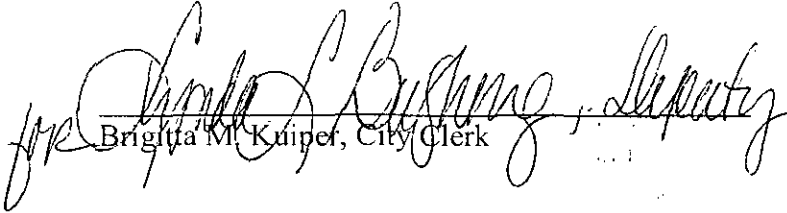
Mayor Nelson outlined several (re)appointments that will be made tomorrow.

VI ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE DISCUSSION

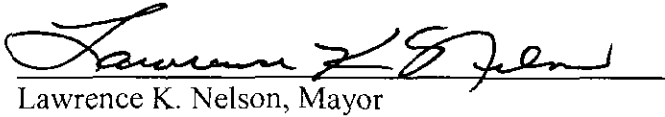
Watson: Juan Carlos, Mayor of San Luis, Arizona, has been appointed a census employee; he will be acting as the area's local partner in conducting the census. The City needs to create a Census Count Committee. **Watson** asked City Councilmembers to considering possible appointees. Appointments will be included on the agenda of the next Regular City Council Meeting, July 1, 2009. Mayor Nelson asked for information on how time consuming the committee would be, which would help them make their decisions.

VI. ADJOURNMENT/EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion (Beeson/Mendoza): To adjourn to Executive Session. Voice vote: **adopted** 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.


Brigitta M. Kuiper, City Clerk

APPROVED:


Lawrence K. Nelson, Mayor

Approved at the City Council Meeting of:
July 15, 2009
City Clerk: B. Kuiper