

MINUTES
REGULAR WORKSESSION
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA
YUMA CITY HALL
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA
August 31, 2010
5:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Krieger called the City Council meeting to order.

Councilmembers Present: Stuart, Mendoza, Beeson, McClendon, Brooks-Gurrola, Johnson and Mayor Krieger
Councilmembers Absent: none
Staffmembers Present: City Administrator, Greg Wilkinson
Police Chief, Jerry Geier
Police Sergeant, Luis Marquez
Director of Community Development, Laurie Lineberry
Various department heads or their representatives
City Clerk, Lynda L. Bushong

I. REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010 - No discussion

II. GREAT PROGRAM

Geier briefed the City Council on local crime statistics for January through June 2010. Compared to the same period in 2009, crime is down in every category with the exception of assaults. These results are a reflection of the teamwork between Yuma Police Department (YPD), outside agencies and community involvement.

Mayor Krieger asked what the difference is between aggravated assault and simple assault. **Geier:** A simple assault would result in minor injuries; aggravated assault would involve a deadly weapon, such as knives.

Geier introduced the Gang Resistance Education And Training (GREAT) Program to the City Council by stating that participating in it could help maintain low crime rates by providing education/training in schools. The training would focus on youth crime, violence prevention, life skills and the creation of positive relationships with law enforcement. **Geier** stated that Sergeant Luis Marquez, a newly-assigned school resource officer, will continue the briefing.

Marquez explained the details of the GREAT Program; highlights of his presentation follow:

- The program was developed in 1981 by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in conjunction with the Phoenix Police Department. In 1982, the program expanded nationwide.
 - Currently, over 500 communities across the United States are involved.
- The program's design and primary goal is to help youth develop life skills that will assist in the prevention of gang involvement, violent behavior, and criminal activity, while encouraging the development of positive relationships with law enforcement.

- GREAT classes are taught by police officers with a wide range of experience in criminal behavior and, more importantly, the ability to recognize gang membership; the police officers can be a positive role model for the youth.
 - YPD would assign two police officers to the GREAT Program on a full-time basis
- The two components of the program that YPD will focus on will be a curriculum of 6 classes that last between 30-45 minutes each and will be taught during school hours.
 - Classes for 5th graders in elementary schools are scheduled for the fall semester.
 - Classes for 7th graders in middle school are scheduled for the spring semester.
- The success of the GREAT Program will depend on the commitment of law enforcement and the educational institutions.
 - Each school district would enter into a separate agreement with the City for implementation of the program.
- The implementation of the GREAT Program would not have a financial impact on the City:
 - No start up cost
 - GREAT Program will provide \$1,000 in supplies
 - Three officers were removed from schools due to funding; two of these officers would be assigned to complete the education/training of the GREAT program.

McClendon expressed her full support for the program and offered her assistance in getting the program moving forward.

III. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE DISCUSSION

McClendon expressed concerns about the proposed plan relating to the Historic Downtown that was previously presented to City Council.

Lineberry stated she is aware of the concerns, specifically concerns about the proposed name and sign funding. Staff will not move forward with the item until these concerns have been successfully addressed. A strategy is being developed to ensure all concerns are addressed; once completed, it will be presented to the City Administrator for his review.

Johnson reported on the Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization (YMPO) Executive Board Meeting that occurred on August 19, 2010. As of today, it appears that YCAT and Dial-A-Ride will continue to operate with curtailed services within the City of Yuma limits. Due to previous financial mismanagement YMPO is facing serious financial difficulties. Another critical issue is the dollar-for-dollar local match of the federal grant used to provide for operations. The advertising on YCAT buses is up by over 300% this year versus previous years. **Mayor Krieger** asked for a future worksession briefing and discussion on the status of YMPO and the City's role in transportation issues.

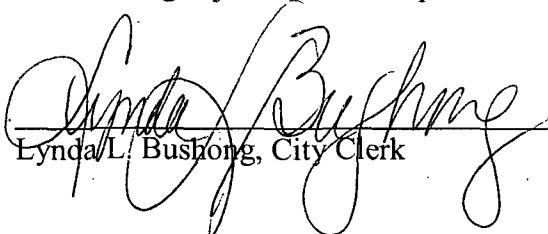
Stuart asked if the \$1 million funding being returned from Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) for the 16th Street Project will be restricted in its use. **Wilkinson** confirmed the funds are restricted to highway use; the funds may be used for the 32nd Street Project. **Mayor Krieger** asked for a future worksession briefing on the funds the City has received from ADOT and other sources and their allowable uses.

Mendoza commended City employees for their efforts during and after the recent storm. **Mayor Krieger** agreed and stated he received many updates while he was out of town. APS did a stellar job

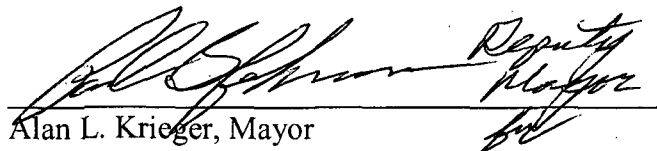
getting the power back on and everyone in the community pulled together. **Wilkinson** stated he issued over 40 letters thanking individuals and local businesses and organizations for their contributions in assisting the City during and after the storm. **Brooks-Gurrola** commended City of Yuma and Yuma County residents for their participation and assistance given to the community during the recovery period from the storm.

IV. ADJOURNMENT/EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m. No Executive Session was held.


Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

APPROVED:


Alan L. Krieger, Mayor *Deputy Mayor*

Approved at the City Council Meeting of:
December 1, 2010
Deputy
City Clerk: Janet Purn