

MINUTES
REGULAR WORKSESSION
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA
YUMA CITY HALL
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA
May 31, 2011
5:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Krieger called the City Council meeting to order.

Councilmembers Present: Stuart, Mendoza, McClendon, Brooks, Johnson and Mayor Krieger
Councilmembers Absent: Beeson
Staffmembers Present: City Administrator, Greg Wilkinson
Director of City Engineering, Paul Brooberg
Director of Parks & Recreation, Becky Chavez
Management Analyst, Brant Hanson
Various department heads or their representatives
City Attorney, Steve Moore
City Clerk, Lynda Bushong

I. REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA OF JUNE 1, 2011

Introduction of Ordinances Item C: Ordinance O2011-23 Exchange, Sale and Acquisition of Real Property

Mendoza requested confirmation that the exchange of property is of equal value resulting in a wash of the funds. **Brooberg** confirmed by explaining that an appraisal was performed on all four parcels, two parcels belonging to Dr. Foss and one property divided into two parcels which is owned by the City of Yuma, to verify that the properties were of equal value. Parcel A, located at the northeast corner of 6th Avenue and 16th Street, which is owned by Dr. Foss will be exchanged for Parcel B, located at the northwest corner of Avenue 8E and 32nd Street, which is owned by the City of Yuma. The City of Yuma will then purchase Parcel C from Dr. Foss' Pension Plan for \$195,000 and sell Parcel D to Dr. Foss for \$195,000 resulting in a wash of the funds.

Introduction of Ordinances Item B: Ordinance O2011-22 Amend Ordinance No. O97-49

Mendoza expressed concern about the possible variance of interest levels between Parks and Recreation members and Arts and Culture members. It will be important to ensure a balance is maintained between Parks & Recreation and Arts & Culture. **Chavez** informed Council that since both Commissions have reduced in size to three Parks & Recreation Commissioners and three Arts & Culture Commissioners this is the right time to combine. The department is conscious of keeping both interests equal in terms of who serves on the board.

II. CITY OF YUMA 2010-11 AND 2011-12 BUDGETS

Wilkinson: A copy of the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 has been provided and was placed on today's agenda for discussion. The first phase in the adoption of the budget will be the adoption of the Preliminary Budget during tomorrow's Regular Council Meeting. City Council will then have an additional two weeks to review the budget.

Mayor Krieger asked Wilkinson how his approach to the budget is relative to cost savings and reducing costs to taxpayers. **Wilkinson** indicated that every decision made last fiscal year and this year was geared towards finding cost savings and reviewing procedures. Putting together the budget and the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) took longer to go through because we are trying to match costs against our resources and stay within the budget while providing the incentives promised to encourage economic growth. One of the primary concerns when balancing the budget was to avoid lay-offs and furloughs and maintain fiscal responsibility.

III. OUTSIDE AGENCY AGREEMENTS

Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization (YMPO)/Intergovernmental Public Transit Authority (IPTA)/Greater Yuma Port Authority (GYPA)

Wilkinson briefed Council with the following:

- YMPO was established in 1982 by an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and the County. Since that time, other jurisdictions have joined the organization.
 - YMPO was set up to:
 - Plan and coordinate.
 - Ensure road height and other elements match up when coordinating between cities.
 - Participate in the screening of grants to ensure they are properly written and meet requirements.
- The IPTA was established last year in an effort to move the transit function out of YMPO
 - The cities in Yuma County and the local college submitted a request to the County to form an independent transit agency due to YMPO's previous financial accountability issues and not being appropriately set up to handle transit.
 - IPTA will handle transit starting July 1, 2011.
 - The County Administrator and each of the City Administrators are member-directors of the IPTA Board to ensure the necessary resources are provided and it operates efficiently.
 - To date the IPTA has held 4 to 5 meetings and has hired a Transit Director who should begin employment at the end of June.

Mayor Krieger asked if the decrease in funding is due to the reductions from the Highway Users Revenue Fund (HURF). **Wilkinson** explained that the amount budgeted for YMPO reflects transit being taken out and not an actual decrease in funding. **Mayor Krieger** requested time to discuss the City's needs relative to the operations YMPO will continue to handle. Does the proposed funding of \$123,426 reflect the current economic climate and reduced activity within the City? **McClendon** inquired if YMPO's budget was discussed during the meeting that was scheduled to take place after the Special Worksession on May 25th. **Mayor Krieger** indicated that the meeting held, was the YMPO Executive Board meeting where the Rail Corridor and Feasibility Study passed, despite his objection.

McClendon asked if the proposed funding of \$123,426 is comparative to the funding contributions from other entities. **Mayor Krieger** explained that since contributions to YMPO are based on a population ratio the City of Yuma is the largest contributor. He believes that now is the time for the City to ask questions to ensure funds are properly allocated. **Brooks** stated that since the beginning of her term on City Council she has not observed any positive changes to YMPO and is not convinced that the City's contribution should be \$123,426.

Johnson pointed out that the funding amount for YMPO is similar to the GYPA in that the amounts are not set by the City but rather by their respective executive board. The GYPA set the yearly funding of \$50,000 and when the City attempted to decrease the funding by \$5,000, the City of Yuma had to reimburse the GYPA in the subsequent year. YMPO was set up to pay a per capita based on population, and the City attempting to individually cut that unilaterally could result in having to reimburse those funds. Federal law requires an incorporated city with a population of 50,000 or more to have a metropolitan planning organization that includes surrounding areas that are likely to develop within 20 years. If YMPO does not complete the Regional Transportation Plan every three years the City and its surrounding areas will not be eligible to receive federal funding for any repaving projects including Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) projects. **Brooks** requested clarification of what the outcome would be if the City decided to decrease YMPO's funding and asked if the City would be responsible to repay the decreased amount. **Mayor Krieger** stated that the outcome would depend on the reduction but there would be no penalty associated. The difference is that the City is paying YMPO for a service and GYPA is paid upfront for a future investment return. Currently, the City has more voting power simply because of its population. YMPO was never set up to be a transit authority and the Board was not structured to run a bus system, yet they did for several years and these are the types of activity that derives YMPO from its core mission. The City has to have a YMPO to be eligible for federal funds but, the scope of work of a metropolitan planning organization will depend on the funding available.

Brooks: If funding is based on a percentage of the City's population, is this a mandatory amount that has to be paid? **Mayor Krieger** indicated that he believes the percentage of the City's obligation can be changed, but asked for further guidance from Councilmember Johnson.

Johnson stated that the GYPA is a private non-profit that has a \$3 million balloon loan that is due in about a year. The current industrial park needs a tremendous amount of sewer, water, and road facility work within the next 18 months in order to generate funds to pay for this loan otherwise, the City might have to make additional contributions towards the loan if it's not refinanced. YMPO is a governmental entity mandated by federal highway law that is required to do things beyond traffic counts including preparations of the Regional Transportation Improvement Program, the Regional Transportation Plan, and the Air Quality Conformity Analysis. **Mayor Krieger** added that the City does not have to fund the GYPA but if the City decides to discontinue funding the City will no longer have the opportunity to recover its investment.

Brooks asked if the City would continue to be eligible for federal funds if YMPO's funding was reduced. **Mayor Krieger** responded that YMPO would have to adjust and operate with a smaller budget. **Johnson** indicated that if the City decides to reduce funding one of the consequences would be for the City to lose its voting authority on the YMPO Board as it did when the City stopped funding transit. **Mayor Krieger** agreed and added that without the changes the City did last year regarding transit, the positive changes that have occurred to the bus system would not have taken place.

Wilkinson asked if YMPO had an adopted preliminary budget. **Mayor Krieger** indicated that to his knowledge a preliminary budget was available.

Johnson noted that the contract with YMPO includes additional traffic counts from their traffic counting program. YMPO's traffic counting program is designed for traffic planning and to generate data for the apportionment of the federal gasoline tax.

Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation (GYEDC)

Brooks stated that she believes that City Council needs to revisit the proposed funding amount for GYEDC. The City should not take on the task of bringing new businesses to Yuma but GYEDC should also review their budget for possible reductions. The City and GYEDC should work closer together in bringing new businesses and jobs to Yuma. **Wilkinson** stated that he met with GYEDC and discussed a number of issues and is prepared to move forward in the direction City Council instructs.

Douglas Nicholls, Board of Directors Chairman, GYEDC, presented the following:

- In 2010 the per capita investment was \$2.66 from the City of Yuma at the investment level of \$247,500. The proposed budget reduces the per capita by over half with a new per capita investment of \$1.24 at the investment level of \$115,000.
- Corporations located in Arizona over the last year

Recent Locates	# of Jobs	Community	Per Capita Investment
First Solar	600	City of Mesa	\$8.67
Suntech Power*	150	City of Goodyear	\$14.98
RIO GLASS*	109	City of Surprise	\$6.55
Gestamp Solar Steel	300	City of Surprise	\$6.55
DataSphere	200	City of Tempe	\$4.60
Power One	350	City of Phoenix	\$6.57
FAIST	150	City of Phoenix	\$6.57
Intel	1000	City of Chandler	\$21.91
Digital Realty	136	City of Chandler	\$21.91
Pay Pal	100	City of Chandler	\$21.91

* Yuma competed

- During last year Johnson Controls and White Mountain had 45 job placements within City limits. From the City's perspective that is a ratio to the City investment dollars of \$5.50:\$1.00. By the end of June 2011 the roof manufacturing company White Mountain is scheduled to hire an additional 15 employees.

▪ 2010-2011 Grants Awarded

Grant	Value of Grant	Recipient
Economic Development Administration	\$3,000,000	Airport
Arizona Commerce Authority-Rural Economic Development Grant	\$380,680	Airport/JCI
Yuma Private Industry Council	\$8,660	GYEDC
Total Value of Grants	\$3,389,340	
Ratio of Grant Dollars to COY Investment Dollars	\$13.69:\$1.00	

- Since 2004 GYEDC has assisted in 814 direct job placements and through other support services the number increases to over 1,200 job placements in the Yuma community.
 - Although some businesses are outside city limits, jobs are held by many city residents.
 - GYEDC is a good investment because it produces job placements that spur economic development in the City of Yuma.
 - Currently GYEDC and City staff are looking at three large potential placements in Yuma; these placements would be extremely beneficial to the Yuma economy.
- GYEDC is requesting that City Council consider maintaining their current membership investment level.
 - As of June 2011, GYEDC will begin an investor drive and is also working to increase private investor contributions.

Johnson asked how GYEDC categorized their efforts for the job placements in companies that have been in Yuma for several years, such as FedEx. **Nicholls** responded that GYEDC assisted with the expansion plans and worked through the process with FedEx. Not all job placements are generated from new industries to Yuma but, also from expansion of existing industries. **Julie Engel**, President/CEO, GYEDC, stated that the FedEx project referenced is the one located at the Yuma Commerce Center which GYEDC was directly involved. **Johnson** asked if the expansion would have taken place as part of their company's expansion despite GYEDC efforts. **Engel** stated that Yuma competed against other communities for this new expansion.

Johnson asked for the contribution amount for the City of San Luis, City of Somerton, and Town of Wellton since 2009. **Nicholls** indicated that the contributions for the City of San Luis were \$65,000 in 2009; \$40,000 in 2010; and \$5,000 is proposed for 2011. Somerton is maintaining their current contribution level which is \$2,500 or \$5,000 and Wellton decrease their contribution to \$5,000. One of the struggles that GYEDC is facing as an organization is the reductions occurring in many areas.

Mendoza stated that City should consider the possibility of continuing the current funding level for GYEDC. Government entities need to follow additional processes and procedures as opposed to a private organization, so contracting with GYEDC might facilitate getting new businesses located in Yuma easier and quicker. The City and GYEDC must work together to accomplish these mutual goals. GYEDC might not be 100% responsible for acquiring all the job placements reported but their lobbying efforts have assisted the process. **McClendon** agrees with Councilmember Mendoza.

Johnson added that in his opinion the City should decide to either fund economic development properly or take it over completely. There is no need for both the City and GYEDC to handle economic development.

Mayor Krieger stated that if the City has the opportunity to have some level of in-house economic development position it could create an opportunity for the City to target businesses directly. Other cities that have an in-house economic development position, such as the Town of Payson which seem to be expanding at a more rapid pace. The City Administrator and GYEDC should meet and find common ground to make this equitable for both parties. **Nicholls** appreciates Mayor Krieger's perspective and agreed that most communities do have an in-house economic development element. GYEDC does not oppose this position but, the organization needs to continue to function at the same level in order to interface with this person. The proposed reduction would reduce GYEDC's capability significantly.

Stuart acknowledged the value of the services provided by GYEDC and the need to negotiate a suitable contract for both parties. The role of the in-house position can be used as a liaison between the City and GYEDC.

Wilkinson clarified that the \$247,500 reflects the amount provided to GYEDC, not the total amount spent on economic development. The City spends a substantially higher amount for economic development in areas such as incentives. In these tough economic times as other organizations cut back, the City is also dealing with budget difficulties and GYEDC cannot expect the City of Yuma to continue to make up for the reductions of other organizations. Furthermore, the intent of the internal position is not to duplicate or compete against GYEDC, but to further the City's relationships and to provide a liaison for GYEDC and to all businesses. **Wilkinson** commented on the great job Engel and **Nicholls** do with GYEDC. **Mayor Krieger** added that Engel's performance ratings are always very excellent.

Humane Society of Yuma (HSOY)

Mayor Krieger stated that through neighborhood meetings the community has expressed that one of the biggest animal control concerns are feral cats. Many towns/cities are facing this issue and it cannot be fixed quickly. It will take time for the City to refine the process of how animal control is addressed. It is important to begin isolating areas of concern in the same way the Police Department addresses high priority issues, by focusing on one area at a time.

Wilkinson informed City Council that staff inquired about the animal control cost of other cities and counties and the results range from \$20,000 to \$350,000. Some unsolicited proposals for animal control were received for the City that ranged in the \$300,000s. **Mayor Krieger:** Will the City be soliciting proposals? **Wilkinson** responded that because of the short timeframe the City will probably be tasked with handling animal control for the time being. Staff has identified some property that can be used for a facility. One of the properties identified is land the City might need to purchase to accommodate street work and the other is distressed property that is inexpensive at this time. The critical issues will be to take care of dog bites and feral cats.

Brooks asked if staff is proposing to not fund the HSOY. **Wilkinson** explained that HSOY has indicated that they will no longer be able to handle cats and live capture traps. These areas have not been part of the City's contract but have been handled in the past by HSOY. The HSOY is requesting an increase and since the City is not in a position to offer an increase, staff began to research the cost associated with handling our own animal control.

Brooks: Can you explain what will happen if the City does not fund HSOY? **Wilkinson** stated that the primary mission for HSOY is to take care of animal adoptions which they will continue to handle; these services are paid through donations to the organization. The HSOY has raised the concern that the City does not pay enough to cover the cost of the services provided so if the City removes these services it should leave the HSOY in a better position to carry out their mission. They will continue to handle some work for the County. If approved by City Council then the City will only handle the animal control aspect. **Mayor Krieger** added that the HSOY is a 501(c)3 organization with a mission for the humane treatment of animals. By contracting with HSOY to do animal control they have had to do things outside of their mission such as euthanizing animals. Not having effective animal control is a serious problem when a large amount of money has been spent for it over the years.

Brooks expressed concern about HSOY raising prices to the community. **Mayor Krieger** stated that is a decision HSOY will have to make.

Johnson stated that on numerous occasions Shawn Smith, Executive Director, HSOY has stated that the contract with the City does not cover the cost for services that they provide and that their charitable contributions are used to subsidize these services. Did the HSOY decide that they will not be involved in the animal control of cats? **Wilkinson** indicated that during a meeting with Smith he was informed that the HSOY will no longer be handling cats and although animal control of cats was not part of the current contract the handling of live traps has been. **Johnson** stated that under these circumstances the City would have to make a decision of whether to have a separate animal control system for dogs and cats or decide to run a single operation for both dogs and cats. **Wilkinson** added that if the City decides to contract with HSOY a different entity would have to handle cats and HSOY has requested an increase in funding to handle dogs.

McClendon asked what services are included in the proposals received. **Wilkinson** responded that the proposals include the services normally performed such as kennel, euthanizing, adoption, officers, and vehicles.

McClendon inquired about the funds collected from animal licensing going to the County. If the City takes over licensing would obtaining the necessary software be an extra expense? Are the chips for micro-chipped pets universal? **Wilkinson** explained that the City will not incur additional costs for animal licensing. The organization that would handle licensing takes their service fee out of the licensing fee so it would pay for itself. This database will have the ability to access information for all micro-chipped pets. The plan is to issue one tag and avoid replacing it until there is a need due to damage or needed repairs. **Hanson** stated that the City is looking to obtain a more durable tag, such as stainless, with a minimal cent cost difference. **Wilkinson** noted that the recently adopted animal control ordinance indicates residents have the option to micro-chip or license their pets and both methods will be tracked.

Mayor Krieger asked if the City will be able to download or upload the current licensing data into the new system. **Hanson:** Yes.

McClendon stated that it is difficult to understand how a new organization can come to Yuma and provide the same service that has been provided by HSOY for many years, in addition to the new provisions provided in the animal control ordinance, at a lower cost. **McClendon** expressed hesitation about moving forward so quickly with only cost estimates; it's possible the final cost will be substantially higher. Staff should attempt to renegotiate a contract with HSOY, otherwise the City and

city residents will be the ones affected during the implementation period. **Mayor Krieger** indicated that the scope of services the City will provide relative to the services currently provided by the HSOY will be completely different. The City's cost for kenneling will be lower because the City will only focus on animal control and additional administrative cost will not be incurred.

McClendon stated that the City does not have an animal control problem with dogs because the HSOY currently handles it. The City will notice a nuisance if these issues are left unattended for a couple of months due to a lapse in time while setting up animal control within the City. **Mayor Krieger** responded that to some extent this might be true but, the City will continue to respond to the dog bites and things of this nature. **Hanson** added that the Animal Control Recommendation Committee comprised of residents, a veterinarian, and city employees has been meeting and looking at different options available. There are a lot of good ideas and some contingency plans are being developed.

Brooks asked if the City will only be handling animal control for feral cats and dog bites. **Hanson** replied that the City will handle the whole operation of animal control and animal sheltering. **Brooks** asked if the City would compete against HSOY. **Hanson** stated that the difference will be that the City will not have an adoption program which is generally a huge cost. The HSOY cost of \$42 per day for kenneling includes adoption fees and administrative fees but, the \$18 cost per day of kenneling is strictly animal control cost. If the City decides not to provide its own shelter, the fee of \$42 a day for kenneling will apply to the City. The hiring of a City Enforcement Agent or utilizing someone in the Police Department to respond to cats, the feeding band, citations, or any other issues that arise is being considered. The City will continue to work with HSOY to negotiate the pending issues.

Brooks: What is the City going to do with the animals if the City will not do adoptions? **Hanson** indicated that euthanizing will be an option but staff has been working with organizations to possibly take in some animals. The City would like to give the option to take in some of the adoptable animals to HSOY; having two adoption agencies in the City is not necessary.

Wilkinson stated that the changes in licensing will be beneficial to the City since the City currently does not receive any revenue from the fees charged. This new revenue will help offset the new animal control cost. The City will try and place animals, however, euthanizing animals is not new to Yuma; the HSOY currently euthanizes animals that are not adopted.

Mendoza asked if the City will handle all animal control calls or only dogs and cats. **Hanson** informed City Council that Lieutenant Brian Scanlan is working on a proposal of how to implement animal control within the City. The City's primary focus is on animal control of cats and dogs.

Mendoza asked if the City will conduct a request for proposals to have a private company handle animal control. **Hanson** replied that at this time the City is only assessing what the cost for animal control is in other communities and have found that the cost is relatively lower when you focus strictly on animal control. It's anticipated that it will be trial and error during the first year but, by the end of the year the City should have an efficient program. **Mayor Krieger** added that the City would benefit more by contracting with a private organization because it would generate revenue through paid taxes.

IV. PROPOSED YUMA CITY CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Mayor Krieger outlined the proposed Charter amendments:

1. Article IV, Sec. 4 Time of holding primary and general elections.

There shall be a primary and general election held in the City of Yuma in every odd numbered year. The primary and general elections shall be held in ~~September and November,~~ respectively, according to *accordance with state law.*

Mayor Krieger expressed his support of the proposed change because it provides clarification of when elections shall be held.

2. Article VI, Sec. 3 Appointive officers.

(c) *City Attorney.* From on and after January 1, 1971, there shall be a city attorney who shall be appointed and his compensation fixed by the city administrator with the approval of the City Council. The city attorney shall serve as the chief legal advisor to the City Council, the city administrator, and all city departments, offices, and agencies. He shall represent the City in all legal proceedings, and shall perform any other duties prescribed by this charter, law, or ordinance. The City Council shall have ~~control~~ *final decision authority* of all litigation of the city, and may *delegate to the city administrator day to day guidance to the city attorney and hiring of other attorneys as required* for such additional legal services and all proper service or work done on behalf of the city in connection with its legal matters. The city attorney shall serve at the pleasure of the city administrator.

City Council had no comments.

3. Article XII, Sec. 1 Competitive bidding.

(d) *Further regulations.* Further regulations concerning purchasing and the awarding of contracts shall be established by city ordinance. *Policies and procedures of accepting of bids be reviewed annually and approved by City Council in a public forum.*

Mayor Krieger indicated he disagrees with the change because it suggests Council get involved in duties that fall directly under the City Administrator. **Stuart** reminded Council that the word "shall" has not been added to the proposed language change.

Mayor Krieger agreed with Councilmember Stuart and continued with the last proposed Charter amendment change:

4. Article VI, Sec. 14 Compensation.

(a) ~~From and after January 1, 1998, the Mayor shall receive compensation of \$12,000 a year and each Councilmember shall receive compensation of \$3,600 a year. From January 1, 2014, the Office of Mayor shall receive compensation based upon 20% of the Supervisor Salary for Yuma County as stated in Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 11, Chapter 3, Article 1, §11-419. The compensation for the Office of Mayor shall increase each subsequent year by 10% of the Supervisor Salary until the compensation for the Office of Mayor is equal to the Supervisor Salary for Yuma County.~~

From January 1, 2014, each Office of Councilmember shall receive compensation based upon 10% of the Supervisor Salary for Yuma County as stated in Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 11, Chapter 3, Article 1, §11-419. The compensation for each Office of Councilmember shall

increase each subsequent year by 5% of the Supervisor Salary until the compensation for each Office of Councilmember is equal to 50% of the Supervisor Salary for Yuma County.

The compensation of the Office of Mayor and each Office of Councilmember shall adjust to the relative percentage of the current Supervisor Salary (ARS Title 11, Chapter 3, Article 1, §11-419) on January 1 of each year.

Mayor Krieger stated that he is not in favor of this proposed change because it sets up a perception that the public will not have input during the years of implementation and it appears too convoluted and not worded for voters to easily understand. Mayor Krieger outlined the current compensation rates for Mayor and Councilmember for other cities in the State.

▪ Mayor and Councilmember Compensation

City	Mayor	Councilmember
Chandler	\$36,000	\$20,000
Gilbert	\$37,080	\$20,600
Tempe	\$42,700	\$26,809
Mesa	\$38,006	\$19,204
Glendale	\$48,000	\$34,000
Scottsdale	\$36,000	\$18,000
Phoenix	\$88,000	\$61,600
Peoria	\$28,836	\$19,224

The City of Yuma is the third largest metropolitan area in the State and currently the Mayor's compensation is \$12,000 and compensation for a Councilmember is \$3,600. After 27 years it is appropriate that this issue goes to the voters to give them the opportunity to participate in determining the compensation for Mayor and Councilmembers. Mayor Krieger displayed his appointment calendar for the months of March, April, and May of 2011 and outlined different events he attended to illustrate the amount of time spent conducting city business. City residents want their elected officials, such as the Mayor and Councilmembers, to participate in events and it is important for the public to understand the amount of time spent attending these events. Many people working in the private sector do not have as many benefits as City employees. All city employees for the last 27 years have received some type of cost of living increase. My proposal is that the Mayor's salary be set at \$24,000 annually which is the same level as the legislature who are only required to serve for 100 days per year, and the Councilmember's salary be set at \$6,000 annually. **Brooks** agreed that the language of the proposed changed is difficult to understand. **Mayor Krieger** asked if something would prevent City Council from making the effective date of this change in January or if approved 30 days after the voters vote. **Moore** informed City Council that as it relates to the Mayor's position, the change would have to become effective at the beginning of the term of office. However, for the Councilmembers, because there are incumbents, both those currently in office and those being elected could receive the pay adjustment starting January 1, 2012. **Mayor Krieger** stated that the Mayor would have to wait until the year 2014. **Moore** noted that the Mayor's position cannot receive an increase during that individual's term of office. **Brooks** stated that due to the current economic climate the change should not go into effect until 2014.

Johnson stated that the proposed change is convoluted and hard for the public to understand. This country has gone through a severe degrade recession for four years, city employees have seen their

paycheck net amount decrease virtually every year because of the increase in the retirement and health services. In 1992 the Mayor's salary was doubled from \$6,000 to \$12,000 and it is now being proposed to double again to \$24,000. The Councilmember's salary was adjusted in 1984 to the current \$3,600 a year and is now being proposed to be raised to \$6,000 a year which would match the salary of Councilmembers in Somerton and San Luis. The position of Mayor and Councilmember is a public service position and the little compensation received is basically to partially offset the out of pocket expenses. It is a mistake to request an increase in compensation to the voters in the middle of a recession when property values are continuing to decrease and are projected to continue in this pattern until 2015 or 2016 and City employees' net salaries continue to go down. Why make a decision now for a change that will not go into effect until 2014? **Mayor Krieger** asked what difference will it make to wait to propose the change until the 2013 General Election if this recession is expected to last until 2016. **Johnson** replied that it makes more sense to present the change in close proximity to when it takes effect.

Mayor Krieger stated that it is more difficult for a person without a retirement pension to serve as Mayor or Councilmember, because they have split their time between work and their elected official duties. The voters should have the opportunity to decide and send the message of what the Mayor and Councilmembers should receive as compensation for the work they do. The voters must also understand the level of service the City will get for their investment. The voters will ultimately decide whether to approve an increase in compensation; Council is only electing to place it on the ballot. **Johnson** indicated that raising compensation from \$300 a month to \$500 a month will not make much of a difference to subsidize the cost for elected officials without a retirement pension. **Mayor Krieger** replied that is one of the reasons the proposed change is for the increase to take place in incremental amounts. **Mendoza** stated that the increase might not make a difference for everyone but to others it will assist with the cost of mileage, missed worked hours, or lunch when traveling to attend meetings.

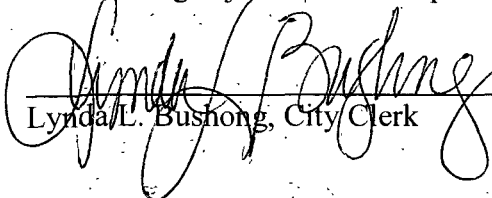
Stuart stated that some of the retired Councilmembers on pensions do contribute immense amount of time and work in this community and for this community.

Johnson suggested changing the proposed increase for Councilmembers to \$5,999 per year to remain as the lowest paid City Council in Yuma.

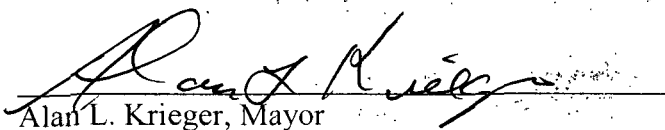
V. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE DISCUSSION – NO DISCUSSION

VI. ADJOURNMENT/EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m. No Executive Session was held.


Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

APPROVED:


Alan L. Krieger, Mayor

Approved at the City Council Meeting of:
September 21, 2011
City Clerk: 