

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, held Monday, March 11, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. at the City of South Tucson Council Chambers, 1601 South 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, South Tucson, Arizona.

Council Present: Jennifer Eckstrom  
Pete Tadeo  
Paul Diaz  
John Felix  
Mary Soltero

Staff Present: Enrique Serna, City Manager  
Ruben Villa, Finance Director  
Veronica Moreno, City Clerk  
Ron Wilson, Judge  
Richard Munoz, Police Chief  
Larry Anderson, Fire Chief  
Joel Gastelum, Planning Director  
Marilyn Chico, Housing Director  
Dennis Rankin, Police Dept.  
Patrick Moran, City Attorney

Mayor Eckstrom called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #04 – ROLL CALL – All members of the Council were present except for Councilwoman Romero and Councilman Salaz, who were excused.

ITEM #05 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES: SPECIAL MEETING, FEBRUARY 11, 2013 – Motion by Vice-Mayor to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 11, 2013. Seconded by Councilman Felix. Motion passed.

ITEM #06 – RESOLUTION NO. 13-03 OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA, APPROVING THE SOUTH TUCSON HOUSING AUTHORITY'S REVISIONS TO THE TERMINATION HEARING NOTICE AND DECISION FORM AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THIS RESOLUTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON HOUSING DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT SAME TO HUD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO EXIST

Mr. Serna: Madam Mayor, members of the Council, as the memorandum states, this is the, actually, an overdue modification. And it just abbreviates the form of the Notice of Termination in kind of like places you can check for kinds of violations that take place. And it's just an abbreviated form (inaudible) suggest the recommended motion.

Motion by Councilman Felix to approve and adopt Resolution No. 13-03 of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, approving the South Tucson Housing Authority's revisions to the Termination Hearing Notice and Decision Form, and authorizing the execution of the resolution for the purpose of authorizing the City of South Tucson Housing Director to submit same to HUD and declaring an emergency to exist. Seconded by Vice-Mayor Tadeo. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM #07 – RESOLUTION NO. 13-04 OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA, APPROVING THE SOUTH TUCSON HOUSING AUTHORITY'S REVISIONS TO THE HOUSING PREFERENCE POINT SYSTEM AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THIS RESOLUTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON HOUSING DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT SAME TO HUD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO EXIST

Mr. Serna: Madam Mayor, members of the Council, again, this is really an exceptional change. In the past, we had people within our community who suffered from domestic violence and we couldn't give them any better prioritization in terms of waiting list, but with this, it gives the same amount of points for domestic violence as the local working preference. So that's a real good piece of change and we recommend the suggested motion.

Motion by Councilman Diaz to approve and adopt Resolution No. 13-04 of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, approving the South Tucson Housing Authority's Revisions to the Housing Preference Point System and authorizing the execution of this resolution for the purpose of authorizing the City of South Tucson Housing Director to submit same to HUD and declaring an emergency to exist. Seconded by Councilwoman Soltero. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM #08 – RESOLUTION NO. 13-05 OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA, APPROVING THE SOUTH TUCSON HOUSING AUTHORITY'S WRITE-OFF OF UNCOLLECTIBLE DEBTS AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THIS RESOLUTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON HOUSING AUTHORITY DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT SAME TO HUD AND ITS FEE ACCOUNTANT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO EXIST

Mr. Serna: Madam Mayor, members of the Council, again, the amount that's been written off is listed as three different debts that are owed, three small ones.

And then the larger one of \$710, for a total of \$834.10. Staff recommends the suggested motion.

Motion by Councilman Felix to approve and adopt Resolution No. 13-05 of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, approving the South Tucson Housing Authority's write-off of uncollectible debt and authorizing execution of this resolution for the purpose of authorizing the City of South Tucson Housing Authority Director to submit same to HUD and its fee accountant, and declaring an emergency to exist. Seconded by Councilwoman Soltero. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM #09 – RESOLUTION NO. 13-06 OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA, APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND TO EVALUATE AND POTENTIALLY PURCHASE PROPERTY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PORTION OF THE EL PASO & SOUTHWESTERN GREENWAY WITHIN THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO EXIST

Mr. Serna: Madam Mayor, members of the Council, Mayor, as you know, during your term as chair of the RTA, we were able to influence a decision by the RTA to allow us to get some RTA money to work on the El Paso and Southwestern Greenway that the Mayor and Council have heard much about over the last two to three years. And so we've got a well laid out breakout of all the different costs involved, and the authority of budget allocation for us to proceed with the appraisal and hopefully the purchase of that property for (inaudible) amount \$670,000. Staff recommends the suggested motion.

Motion by Councilman Felix to approve and adopt Resolution No. 13-06 of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, approving an agreement between the City and the Trust for public land to evaluate and potentially purchase the property for the construction of the portion of the El Paso and Southwestern Greenway within the City of South Tucson and declaring an emergency to exist. Seconded by Vice-Mayor Tadeo.

Councilman Felix: Just for the record, I've been to most of these meetings where this is a bike path and pedestrian pathway that will be connected to the University of Arizona, and be running through the City of South Tucson, and over to the City of Tucson. I think this is a great opportunity for the City to purchase this property.

Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM #10 – RESOLUTION NO. 13-07 OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA, PERTAINING TO THE SUBMISSION OF PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION IN ARIZONA'S 2014 HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN

Mr. Serna: Madam Mayor, members of the Council, it's not uncommon to see the police department finding applications to submit for funding. And in this case, the Chief and the staff have worked with this department to see about getting a DUI enforcement vehicle with some funding. And so we're somewhat positive about the possibility.

Motion by Councilman Felix to approve and adopt Resolution No. 13-07 of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, pertaining to the submission of projects for consideration to Arizona's 2014 Highway Safety Plan. Seconded by Councilwoman Soltero. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM #11 – RESOLUTION NO. 13-08 OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA, APPROVING AND ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT AMONG S.W.A.T. TO AMEND ARTICLE V TO EXTEND THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE AMENDMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO EXIST

Mr. Serna: Madam Mayor, members of the Council, again, we've had this S.W.A.T. agreement with the Sheriff's Department in various jurisdictions. And unbeknownst to us, it actually had expired a couple years ago. So we're refreshing the agreement.

Motion by Councilman Felix to approve and adopt Resolution No. 13-08 of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, approving and adopting the amendment to the agreement, the IGA, among S.W.A.T. law enforcement participating jurisdictions, to amend Article V to extend the term of the agreement and authorizing the Mayor to execute the amendment and declaring an emergency to exist. Seconded by Vice-Mayor Tadeo. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM #12 – ORDINANCE NO. 13-02 OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA, AMENDING THE MINIMUM REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE MAGISTRATE COURT, AMENDING/REVISING CHAPTER 12, MAGISTRATE COURT, BY AMENDING AND REVISING SECTION 12-7, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO EXIST

Mr. Serna: Madam Mayor, members of the Council, again, the presiding judge has written out in detail exactly what these additional fees are. If there are any questions, he's obviously here to respond to them and we recommend the suggested motion.

Motion by Councilman Felix to approve and adopt Ordinance No. 13-02 of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, amending the minimum regulations governing the Magistrate Court, amending/revising Chapter 12, Magistrate Court, by amending and revising Section 12-7, and declaring an emergency to exist. Seconded by Councilwoman Soltero. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM #13 – AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT WITH BARRY COREY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING LEGAL COUNSEL TO THE SOUTH TUCSON MERIT SYSTEM COMMISSION BY BARRY COREY AND ANY LEGAL WITH WHOM HE IS ASSOCIATED

Mr. Serna: Madam Mayor, members of the Council, in the five years that I've been here, we've never actually had an employee issue rising to the level of a hearing before the Merit System Commission. Here this past year, you recall that we updated some of the language in the kinds of consideration that go into this kind of arrangement. Barry Corey has long been the person that represents the Merit System Commission and all of, most of the various jurisdictions including the County. And we've been in talks with him about just specifying the language. The fee is, in my estimation, a little high but then again, this long and we've never had an issue to contend with (inaudible). He's really the person we need to have in place if such a thing were to rise to the level of a challenge. We recommend the suggested motion.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Tadeo that the City Council direct the City Manager to amend contract as presented with Barry Corey for the purpose of providing legal counsel to the South Tucson Merit System Commission by Barry Corey and any legal with whom he is associated. Seconded by Councilman Felix.

Councilman Diaz: Mr. Serna, are all the names still going to be changed for when it goes into the record?

Mr. Serna: Excuse me (inaudible)?

Councilman Diaz: For example, there's a, Hector Figueroa is ...

Mr. Serna: Oh, yeah.

Councilman Diaz: ... (inaudible).

Mr. Serna: Yeah, I saw that, too.

Ms. Moreno: I already changed it.

Councilman Diaz: And then the Town of Marana (inaudible).

Mr. Serna: Right, right.

Councilman Diaz: (Inaudible).

Mr. Serna: Yes, absolutely. Thank you.

Councilman Diaz: Thank you.

Motion passed.

ITEM #14 – PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON MID-YEAR FINANCIAL AND BUDGET STATUS REPORT

Mr. Serna: Madam Mayor, members of the Council, we want to provide you a kind of a brief update on the status of where we are now. Most cities and towns are already well underway with regard to their budgeting process. And as we get into, nearing the new fiscal year, I've asked our Assistant Finance, City Manager to give us an update on where we stand and what the prospects look for, like for the coming year. So, Ruben.

Mr. Villa: Good evening, Mayor and Council, this report is brief. There's enough detail that we can email the report. Actually it's 208 pages of, in an attempt to save some trees, email for those that want a copy. The quickest way to go through these is just to follow me with each of this pages. The first page after the cover sheet is a report that compares revenues and expenditures for 5 years in a row at the same time period. This report represents January 31<sup>st</sup>, which is half of the year plus one. And we took a snapshot of 5 years, where were we in January of 2009, January of 2010, and all the way to January '13. The idea behind this report is to show you that back in 2009, our revenues were less than expenditures, at that point in time, by \$186,000. The following year at the same period, we were \$341,000 in the red. We had spent that much more over of revenues. And you can follow that graph there, or that report. You'll see that that was the highest year, \$341,000. Then it dropped to \$283,000; \$79,000 last year, and this year we're reporting a \$53,000 negative number. We've spent

\$53,000 more than what we've gotten up to this point. Though it's a negative number, it's a slight improvement. Well, it's actually a good improvement but there's still a long way to go. The idea is never to be in the red. It's never to be close, you want to be as close as possible to your income. The graph itself basically shows you the trend in revenues and expenditures had been, the revenues are what they are. We depend on what the numbers are. But expenditures have been adjusted to those levels. And you can see it follows the same pattern, except for the net over revenues on the first page. You'll see that it's (inaudible) and then it dropped dramatically over the last three years. The following page, which is from the current fiscal year, July through January, this details all individual funds. The revenues compared to their expenditures and then the net over expenditures. You will see that any positive number represents expenditures exceeding revenues. And anything in the negative is more expenditures than revenues. You will notice that General Fund has a \$297,000 plus number. What that means is that at this point in time, number one, we had received more property taxes than we had spent. As you recall, the property tax levy is to pay for our bond. The bond is not due until the end of the fiscal year. So we have received pretty much about 70% of the property taxes for this fiscal year. Usually, it's November and the beginning of the calendar year we'll see a spike in property tax collections. We won't see any more than \$600,000, which is equal to the amount that we're (inaudible) bonds. There are rents that we're expecting reimbursement. But at this point, again, we have received \$4,070,00 in revenues and we have spent \$4,123,000, leaving a negative net of \$53,043.

The following page, very briefly, describes General Fund. And I want to show you the performance of all the revenue categories compared to the revenue, uh, expenditure, the departmental expenditures. The key here, if you'll notice, fiscal year has elapsed like 59%, meaning that we are a little bit past the halfway point. We want our revenues to be either 59% or more. We want our expenditures to be 59% or less. And you'll notice here that throughout we're doing really well in, in the tax category. We're doing really well in the environmental revenue, which is the State share revenue. Pretty much everything is in line. Our expenditures are actually in line as well. Overall, 57.5% of our projected revenue has been received. And 50.8% of our projected expenditures have been incurred. It's a good position to be in, compared to where we were 5 years ago.

The other report is more detail on the revenues. We can go over there. What I wanted to do tonight is just because we will begin the conversation in the next few weeks, related to next year's budget, and the consideration to all these line items and how they're performing is what we want to highlight tonight. In the matter of a few weeks, we'll have to explore the same options we have talked about the last few years (inaudible) that momentum that will hopefully get us out of that situation as we had been. I'm available for any questions, or I can email you additional information.

Councilman Felix: I have two questions for you. What has it been, the impact of the secondary property tax, on the City overall? Has it helped the City or?

Mr. Villa: In a previous report, we showed that the decline in State share revenues and the decline of local sales tax forced us to look at internal cuts first. So for the first several years, the City made cuts in its operation, City administration, and the delivery of services. And at the last part of fiscal year '10, the beginning of '11, we recommended the secondary property tax to fund our bond payment, which at that point would begin to accrue. So the short answer to that is if we did not have secondary property taxes, we would not be able to be in the position we're in. We would have either had to cut that much from our current operation, or, really, that's all there is. Or, alternative is bankruptcy because we could not have met our obligations up to this point.

Councilman Felix: So that was my second question. What would happen if we don't approve it this budget year? We probably be close to bankruptcy?

Mr. Serna: Well, if I might, Mayor, Madam Mayor, Councilman Felix and members of the Council, I really want to make sure that we, as we have in the recent past, documented almost every meeting for the record that for any change to take place with regard to secondary property tax is, and you have \$600,000. As you look at the figures here, you can see that we've been paying off our debts by being much more frugal those last few years. Any attempt to reverse that secondary property tax, number one, will be impossible to do because we won't be able to submit a balanced budget; number two, would translate into a default position of bankruptcy that's even worse than when we started this a few years back, that will ultimately turn into not only the County having to resubmit a secondary property tax for paying off the bond 'cause if the County takes over the City, they're not going to pay our bills. The property owners of this community have to pay the bills. Plus, as I've mentioned before, and I want it on the record, that there will likely be a secondary property tax to pay off the jail bill which we're paying off by being frugal like we have been and we're up to date with the County, and we report to the County, to the County Administrator like every three to six months, every time he asks for it and this is a budgeting period in which he's going to be asking again. And we are current. And, in fact, we are making much progress with regard to the diversion of the kinds of folks that we've been incarcerating to lessen that monthly bill. So, you know, I wish I, we could be a little bit more dramatic about making that statement, but it's really a serious, serious issue to consider for the future that that secondary property tax is an essential requirement for this City to continue to sustain itself. And again, we challenge anyone to come in and look at our books and take a look and come up with a different observation about what actually can happen to the City without this property tax.

Mr. Villa: Madam Mayor, if I may, I guess the, if we turn back to the first page, just maybe this would answer that question. If you compare 2009, the line where it reads \$6,000,078 for expenditures, that's, those were the total expenditures up to January. You compare them to this year, they're \$2,000,000 (inaudible) meaning that the City is running at the leanest possible way that we've run in the last 10 years. So if we are to remove a revenue source from the top line, which is the \$4,070,000, that would drop it to \$3,500,000. So we would be that much behind. Or we would have to then cut from a place that's already the leanest it's been in, at least since I've been here, thirteen years.

Mayor Eckstrom: I have questions, too. Just because we go into bankruptcy and the County takes over our bills, doesn't mean that they're going to provide for the City. Correct?

Mr. Serna: Right now, the only thing facing us is what the obligations of this community would be to satisfy our debt. Obviously, without a police department, without a fire department within two minutes, three minutes response time, all, you know, those are probably even more important things to our community if it weren't for the importance of having that revenue in our community, but the residents would not have, would have that resource, and again, if there's even a change in the garbage service, then that will translate into even the homeowners that we currently only charge \$4 a month will be paying, at minimum, the \$17 that everybody else is paying. When they contract, they have to, the County would have to recontract the services out for garbage pickup either with a provider like (inaudible) the City of Tucson. And the Tucson, the City of Tucson has already given us a quote (inaudible) not here but it was very, very close to \$17, but a little bit higher than that. So, you know, they are, they are a bunch of issues out there that we've actually got control of today. And if we, we need to stay frugal in that regard with the kinds of things that are in place now. And, you know, that's the best thing for the City that, that could possibly have is to stay on track the way we have.

Mayor Eckstrom: And I'd like to talk about the fire department for a few minutes. People are saying that, you know, we let go of the fire department. And what we did was, you know, drastic measures towards our residents. If you could provide me with a little history, weren't your first recommendations to get rid of it altogether?

Mr. Serna: Madam Mayor, members of the Council, actually yes, to, to our chagrin, when things were, were looking really, really bad, you know, the Manager and the Finance Director get together and, you know, that's where the conversations start and the only, you know, we were looking at the impending bond debt that we had to pay with, before we were just paying interest. Then two

years ago, the first principal notice was due. And so that meant we had to come up with \$600,000 and so in addition, because we had already done a number of things with regard to cut backs in salaries and things of that sort, we, we, then the next \$600,000 (inaudible) was a, the department itself. And you're right, and that's something that we recommended because, you know, there was a time in the past when I was here when we had a volunteer fire department. And so, you know, I naturally jumped to that conclusion. As it turns out, of course, we've got, now we've retained, you know, three full-time fire fighters and we've got thirty reserves. I mean so if people are saying that, that we don't have the resources, in fact, I would submit that, that we have more stability now in terms of the volume of, of reserves that are out there who, most of whom, if not all of them, currently are full-time firemen in other departments so it's not like our fire fighters (inaudible) qualifications than other fire fighters in other areas. So it's true the Mayor and Council kind of changed it for us and made us come up with a better plan. And so we retained what we could and, and it's, it really is working. We've got a, a well-placed number of volunteers in conjunction with our paid fire fighters who are doing their jobs. So service has not suffered one iota and in some ways, perhaps it's better.

Mayor Eckstrom: So we did save the fire department, just to make that clear. And service did not stop at any time. And if we were to try to go back to a full-service fire department like we did in the past, we're just not there yet. Correct?

Mr. Serna: Our goal would be that it would be in the future, but we're not, we're not ...

Mayor Eckstrom: This year.

Mr. Serna: ... even close. We still show that we got, and the only reason it shows that way is because we're paying off debt that we had from those, those previous years. So the goal would be at some time be a full fledged fire department again. But we've got, you know, and, and with the other departments as well. We, we have about 4 or 5 less in Public Works Department. Police, again, suffers. You know, everybody. And I, and I need to say that we, I dare say we've not ever been as efficient as we have during these times when we've had to be frugal and, you know, to the credit of, of the, of the employees that are working. It's when hard times hit, people step up and, you know, we're still doing with a lot of kind of frugal things, such as we're still not utilizing sick leave. We're not accruing sick leave. That was, that was another type of, of debt that we owed that we had to cut back. And so when people get sick, unless it's a hospital stay, we can't, we can't use, they have to use their annual leave. And, and people are living with that. They're, employees are, are doing their part by trying to.

Mayor Eckstrom: Any other questions:

Councilman Felix: May I ask the Fire Chief how does he feel his department is doing?

Chief Anderson: Madam Mayor, members of the Council, just for clarification is that we're volunteer is a, it's been sold incorrectly in the community. What we need to understand is these individuals are trained professionals that happen to be in a volunteer capacity. I had a media call me when we first went through this whole thing. And it was an educational process for them to understand the word "volunteer" you do not be afraid of that. They are trained professionals that are (inaudible) and so traditionally what happens community members, they say, "Well, we have just a volunteer department. Therefore, our services go down." That is no, that's old traditional way of thinking. The new way is they are trained professionals who are filling the capacity as volunteers.

Mr. Serna: Yeah, if I might add another really important thing is that they get paid. The only difference is we don't have to pay the fringe benefits, which is typically 40 to 50% of what, what it used to be just in, in the fringe benefits. So that is where the anticipated savings were projected when we, when we came up with the proposition of building up our reserve force. So the Chief is right. They're not volunteers like they were in the old days. They're reserves who actually get paid on an hourly basis for every hour that they're here.

Chief Anderson: And if I, just real quickly, City Manager is, is the services we're providing a, as you know, I've been with the City for 24 years and I came out of a volunteer organization before we had paid positions. The benefit is this is I've been there, I've done that. We understand what we need to do. We know what it's like to be in this position and if it wasn't for the foundation of people that were truly volunteering back in the day, we wouldn't be able to operate that way within the City. So this just didn't happen four years ago, three years ago. It's been in our system from day one when we came and assisted so I think it's very important to educate the community that, that this is the way we work in South Tucson. Yes, we'd love to be that career department. But a city our size, feasibly we can't do it right now. That's why we went combination. So we, we're very flexible just like the City itself.

Mr. Serna: Madam Mayor, members of the Council, again, I'm glad that you asked this question 'cause one of the unforgotten pieces to all of this is that even before we have to look at, at rehiring personnel in fire department, we've got equipment. We've got fire engines that are aging and we can't count on the Tohono O'odham Nation and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe to continue to donate fire engines to us. So we need to anticipate having to purchase those and as we know, those things are running \$300,000 for a fire engine plus. I mean that's a

substantial amount. So there's a lot of things to have to contemplate as we look forward to being able to get back to where we were. The economy hasn't changed so why people think that we can go back and, and replace everything without it costing us dearly, I'm surprised. It's, it just can't be done.

Councilman Felix: And on a personal note, I had to use the fire department in the past year. And they've done a great job for myself and my family. I'd like to say thank you.

Chief Anderson: Well, I appreciate that. I think it's very important that we understand that you have commitment of staff. Yes, they're, there are just some things that (inaudible) that we would love to have. But I can guarantee you this, is when they show up at your doorstep, we're not checking to see if they're full-time, part-time. They just want service on that, that very end. So that's what our employees bring to the, to the table is, is we're not checking if they're paid, not paid. They're there to provide that service. They understand what they're getting into. And that's what the expectations are as, as us a whole, so I mean.

Councilman Felix: And they done a great job.

#### ITEM #15 – REPORTS

##### Southwest Fair Housing and Southern Arizona Legal Aid – Classes offered re: Landlord Tenant Act

City Manager: Madam Mayor, members of the Council, real quickly, I wanted to talk a little bit more and take advantage of, you know, bragging a little bit about the accomplishments of our Neighborhood Preservation ordinance which we affectionately refer to as Chapter 7. And the amount of work that takes place without, you know, outside of earshot, without, not, you know, in sight of people who are looking at the inroads that are being made to ensure that the residents of our community have safe and decent affordable housing over the last four years that we've had this, this ordinance in place addresses the relationship between the landlord and the tenant. And in most cases, there has not been, since we didn't have a, a really sophisticated code enforcement mechanism in place, Chapter 7 was actually created by a police officer who was actually encountering problems, as all departments were, with abandoned housing, and vacant housing, and drugs, and prostitution taking place. And dating back to my first term here in the early '80's, and whenever they complained, they had, there was no, there was nothing in place in City Hall to take care of their issues. An officer back east came up with this and so we have a well-implemented policy. To take it a couple steps further, we've enlisted the Southwest Fair Housing

Commission and Southern Arizona Legal Aid to come and provide classes here at Sam Lena Library to provide, actually, some very, very different issues but included among them are the rights of tenants and the rights of landlords as an educational tool. We are now, we've done very, very well with addressing all of the rental, not all the rental properties, but most of the, the violations, code violations and even criminal activity taking place in our community with regard to absentee landlords who are not paying attention to their property and who they rent to. That issue is still going on and now we're migrating into some of the apartment complexes where we also have some significant problems so I wanted to talk about that a little bit.

#### Primavera Foundation: Department of Justice Grant Application

Mr. Serna: In conjunction with that, the Primavera Foundation, along the same course, last year, you might recall we submitted for a three-year grant that we didn't get. We resubmitted that through Primavera and the police department, and it addresses identifying not only crime hotspots in our community that are problems, but it also provides additional emphasis on the court system. And I want to talk just a little bit about the reputation of our court. And the, our City Magistrate is a recognized person to go to with regard to court innovation in the country. And I wanted to include, too, that in the budgeting process that we come up here within the next month, month and a half, we really, really need to compensate the Magistrate who is paid a ridiculously low salary. And I know that we can say that about other departments and other employees, etc., but, you know, until recently our judge is only making, I have to say \$51,000, which most people in law enforcement and other departments, you know, he's got a law degree and he's been the City Judge and he's, he's been here for a quite a while so I'm going to, I'm going to try and address that and bring that 'cause obviously that's something that the Mayor and Council have to make a decision on, but Judge Wilson has gone on unheralded in so many ways, especially with the things that he does on a daily basis. I happened to walk in on him today just to, to talk to him and he was in court and they were having an at-risk youth here through a model kind of program that they're going and it was really impressive. Our Assistant City Attorney that's working with Patrick, Brad Holland, was sitting here and Mark Brown was here; some people from that program that, that had that for here, and it was really an incredible thing. And I know that Mayor and I know John Felix has actually walked in on the courtroom just to see what goes on and, and, you know, if I let the Judge speak on his own behalf, he would have done a much more eloquent job. And since it's unsolicited, I just wanted to really spend a little bit of time anticipating the budget process that we have to go through. We probably want to pay a little special attention to, to his position. He was actually offered a job with the Tucson Urban League. The pay is certainly

more and he and his wife decided he, he wanted to stay here. So that's, just kudos to him. And then finally, Madam Mayor, members of the Council, you all got the note from Chief Munoz that he's retiring on May the 10<sup>th</sup>, I believe it is. And I can't say enough about the job that he's done for us and kind of the peace that he's brought to the department. And so, it's a tough job that policemen have and they always have concerns. And he's, he's managed to insulate me from the kinds of issues that come up there by taking care (inaudible). My personal gratitude to Chief Munoz on behalf of all of us. I appreciate what you and Chief Viduarri have done for us and so if you would extend that to him.

Mayor Eckstrom: I'd just like to say, Chief Munoz, you've brought a great amount of stability to the police department and you've gotten our police officers back out into the community. You've become more visible. And you're just a nice guy. And thank you so much for all that you've done and I'm going to miss you.

Chief Munoz: Madam Mayor, members of the Council, thank you very much.

Councilman Felix: I'd like to thank your wife for putting up with that.

Councilman Diaz: I do have a question. Mr. Serna, in regards to the information I requested, are there any update or anything?

Mr. Serna: You know, the information that you requested we (inaudible) and most of it was outside our (inaudible) as the proprietor. She had issue with Primavera. And I talked to Peggy Hutchinson and she said for me to ask you to, she'd be glad to sit down with you and go over with you. The, the volume of work and time it would have taken for us to, to put all that together would have been, it, it was overwhelming given the kinds of things that we're doing, and I think that the, the nature of the request was such that it, kind of took it on a, on a (inaudible) basis and it's something that we could talk with you about, sit down with you. I know that Joel Gastelum is, was looking at trying to get additional information on all the meetings that, that he's had, that he's scheduled, tried to schedule and tried to convene regarding zoning issues. But they've been working on that, too, so we beg your indulgence to come in and, and sit with us. It would be, it's much easier for us to deal with you on that then to actually have to sit down and try and figure out exactly what it is that, that you're, you're really looking for. So, you know, I'd really like to extend that invitation to, to deal with. It's not something that, that we've neglected. We've talked about it and it's really hard to, to document that. But we can, in writing, so prefer to, with your indulgence, to come in and be glad to go over all of that with you, if you'd make the time.

Councilman Diaz: Okay. Thank you.

Mayor Eckstrom: I'd like the record to reflect that Council member Salaz is absent.

ITEM #16 – CALL TO THE AUDIENCE – No response.

ITEM #17 – ADJOURNMENT - Motion by Vice-Mayor Tadeo to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Seconded by Councilman Felix. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

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Jennifer Eckstrom, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Veronica Moreno, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council of South Tucson, Arizona, held on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2013. I further certify the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

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Veronica Moreno, City Clerk