

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, held Tuesday, May 26, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. at the City of South Tucson Council Chambers, 1601 South 6th Avenue, South Tucson, Arizona.

Council Present: Anita Romero
Miguel Rojas
Herman Lopez
Vanessa Mendoza
Oscar Patino

Staff Present: Benny Young, City Manager
Veronica Moreno, City Clerk
Ed Machett, City Attorney
Michael Ford, Police Chief
Dennis Rankin, Police Dept.
Rey Alvarez, Fire Chief
Cory Lakosky, Fire Dept.

Audience: Jason Robinson
Raul Green

Vice-Mayor Romero called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilman Lopez led the Invocation.

ITEM #04 – ROLL CALL – All members of the Council were present, except for Mayor Diaz, who was excused.

ITEM #05 – CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

Mr. Robinson: All I wanted to do was bring it, Madam, Council, and Council members, to the attention that these, there is no signage on 4th Avenue and 26th, right as you, there's no, not a 4th, not a 26th on any of the corners, so I just noticed it on my way in. I thought maybe it could find it's hand to the right people today. Thank you.

Mr. Green: Thank you. Good afternoon, Mayor and Council. I was out there for a few months trying to make South Tucson better, fixing it. I think we're heading in the right direction. I do have a list of requests, well, these are the complaints that are heard more often. This is what we're trying to get now that there's a shift in the Council. Hopefully, there's at least a new person. Our community is demanding accountability. We want transparency. Something that might not make a difference with a lot of people, but at least we'll take the excuse of, "I didn't know I was wrong." We want a Code of Ethics established for the Council members. We want the Council to stop bickering and focus on trying to make this City better. We don't want Pasadera. Pasadera wants to come in. They were wrong from the beginning. They know this. And they want to sue us. They're not suing the Council. They're suing the City of South Tucson. So if they want to do it, bring it on. It's not the seven people here that decide. The community has already made it clear that we don't want 'em. So if they want to sue us 'cause we don't want 'em, someone promised 'em something, and they're not coming

through with it and they want to sue us, let 'em do it. That's fine. The safety of our kids is not negotiable. We'll go to court if we have to. Thank you.

ITEM #06 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NONE AVAILABLE

ITEM #07 – CERTIFICATION OF OFFICIAL CANVASS OF ELECTION RESULTS OF THE SPECIAL ELECTION RECALL HELD ON MAY 19, 2015

Mr. Young: Vice-Mayor, members of the Council, the Elections Director from Pima County has certified the results of the Special Election Recall held on May 19th and that's in your packet. What we would ask the Council to do tonight is simply pass a motion to approve the certification of the official canvass of the election results of the Special Election held on May 19th.

Motion by Councilman Rojas to approve the Certification of the Official Canvass of the Election Results of the Special Election Recall held on May 19th, 2015. Seconded by Councilman Green. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM #08 – INSTALLATION OF NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILMEMBER

Mr. Young: This is an installation with a newly elected Council member, Mr. Robert Larribas. And I'm joined tonight by our presiding Judge, the Honorable Albert Lassen, who will conduct the swearing in. The law says that the candidate that receives the largest number of votes shall be declared elected and begin serving upon approval of the canvass. And so this swearing in is a formality that will officially install Mr. Larribas as the newest elected Council member with the City of South Tucson. So with that, I will invite Mr. Larribas to come forward.

The Honorable Albert Lassen conducted the swearing in of Mr. Larribas.

Mr. Larribas: I want to thank you for allowing me this chance to serve with you. Hopefully, we can all work together as one so we can accomplish a lot of things together, make our community safe and a lot better.

ITEM #09 – RESOLUTION NO. 15-22 OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXPLORE LEASE PURCHASE OPTIONS FOR A FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE TRUCK

Mr. Young: Our Fire Department is desperately in need of a new piece of equipment, a new fire truck. And we're evaluating options for how we might be able to do that moving into the next fiscal year 2016, which as you all know, starts July 1. One of the options that I would like to investigate is the possibility of a lease purchase. It's unlikely that we would be able to consummate an outright purchase given our financial situation here at the City. It costs \$450,000 or \$500,000. But there is a possibility that we could lease a new fire truck and have that delivered sometime during fiscal year 2016, and perhaps arrange the lease purchasing in a way that we wouldn't even have to make the

first payment until the following fiscal year. So I just wanted to let the Council know that I would like to explore that option. And the Fire Department has done a great job of talking to a potential vendor, based on a previous call. And we would like to pursue that. If we are able to successfully negotiate a lease purchase agreement, that would come back to the Council for final approval, so you're not giving me the authority to enter into an agreement. You're just giving me the authority to do the due diligence that's necessary to see whether or not it would work for us. And the sooner that we get started on that, I think the better. I'd be happy to answer any questions that the Council might have. And the Chief is here with me and Cory Lakosky, and we would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Motion by Councilman Rojas to accept Resolution No. 15-22, Authorizing the City Manager to Explore Lease Purchase Options for a Fire Department Fire Truck. Seconded by Councilman Lopez.

Councilman Green: Madam Mayor.

Vice-Mayor Romero: Yes.

Councilman Green: We sold the previous truck. What happened to the money on that one?

Mr. Young: Perhaps the Chief or Cory can help me answer that question. Do you know?

Chief Alvarez: I can't definitely tell you the right answer, so I'm not gonna, you know, tell you something I don't know. So, that was in the finances of, Finance and so.

Mr. Young: What I will do, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Green, is I will get an answer and I will put a copy of the answer in your boxes, as well as send you an email with the answer.

Councilman Green: Okay, appreciate it.

Councilwoman Mendoza: Madam Vice-Mayor, I have a question real quick.

Vice-Mayor Romero: Yes.

Councilwoman Mendoza: Will you also be looking at the possibility of grants to help pay for the lease purchase or?

Mr. Young: Madam Mayor, Council member Mendoza, thank you for the question. I appreciate both questions. Yes, all options are still on the table. I just wanted to have the Council's permission to explicitly explore this option, but we will look at other options too. Grants are certainly one option. We will look at the possibility of acquiring a used piece of equipment, perhaps, from another agency. In fact, we learned late today that there's a good chance that we will secure, at minimal cost, a used engine from another agency in Northern Arizona. That's in the works. However, that wouldn't really take the place of what we really need, which is a new engine. If we're successful in obtaining a used engine, that would become an important part of our inventory and our ability to provide service to the citizens of South Tucson. But I would still like to pursue a new purchase so that's a long way of saying yes, we will look at all the possible options. Thank you for the question.

Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM #10 – EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO A.R.S. SECTION 38-431.03(A)(1)(3)

1. PERSONNEL MATTERS – POLICE DEPARTMENT AND CONSULTATION WITH CITY ATTORNEY

Motion by Councilman Rojas to adjourn the Special Meeting and convene into Executive Session. Seconded by Councilman Green. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Councilman Rojas to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene to Special Meeting. Seconded by Councilman Green. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Councilman Rojas to instruct the City Manager to follow-up on what was discussed. Seconded by Councilman Lopez. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM #11 – REPORTS

Mr. Young: Thank you. I just have a couple of items. First of all, there was a business forum last Thursday evening, which was reasonably well attended. I thought it was a very good discussion. And sometime before the end of this week, I plan to give you a report on what was discussed and what we heard at that meeting. We recorded all of the thoughts and asked the business community who attended to help us prioritize what we should work on here as a City, from the business community's perspective. And it wouldn't surprise you to hear that we need to work on kind of my take-away, the bottom line is that we need to work on our public safety and security as a community. We need to work on our public image and appearance in the community. And we need to work together as a community. In their specific working together aspect, there was mention of the need to engage the neighborhoods more, and to formalize perhaps a small business commission or something here that we could interact with regularly so all the ideas we heard don't just disappear into the woodwork at City Hall, so to speak. And I wanted the audience to know that we take this very seriously. And that we include the youth development aspect of all of this as we move forward to build a stronger community and stronger tie between the City organization and the business, the non-profits in the neighborhoods in South Tucson. It was a very good discussion. I will give you a more comprehensive report later on in the week. And secondly, you may realize we don't have a Mayor at the present time. Thank you, Vice-Mayor Romero, for filling in. I would recommend that on the next meeting, which would be June the 8th, I bring you an item outlining the duties of the Mayor so that you can make a selection from within the seven members on the City Council right now, who you would like to have serve as your next Mayor. It is a City Council appointment that I would like to assist in that by kind of outlining some of the things I think that come to the Mayor's position that are a little bit beyond what normally comes to the rest of the members of the Council so that we can make certain whoever is selected to be the next Mayor for South Tucson is aware of the obligations and responsibilities that go with the position. And I think that's my report for now. Thank you very much.

Vice-Mayor Romero: Right now, I'm just going to say a few things. I want to thank, the last four years when Paul Diaz and I became on the Council, the first two years were hard. It was real hard for

us. But the last two years, I think Paul did accomplish a lot. We did a good, we were working together here in South Tucson and we accomplished a lot of things. Right now, I feel it was a change, yes. But you know, this change has to, we have to work together as citizens of South Tucson. We're mostly Mexican-Americans here. And we should show the other small cities, and show them how we can do it and work together and clean up this city. The police, you know, it wasn't years, I grew up here, I was, years ago we used to play in the street. It was just dirt streets, not pavement. It was night. We didn't have lights. But we could be outside. I remember those years. That's when the Santa Cruz's were council people. And I believe that at those times, even, you could see the workers enjoying working. Now, with the problems in the Council, we are here for our City. I'm here, it's not easy thing to be up here. This is a lot of stress. And when we work, and when we work, it's a lot of stress. Everybody is in here. They work. They come home. Then with all this that's going out, this is our City. And we should show other cities that a small city a square mile can do better than this, can be working together and become the seven people in the Council, I know we can do it. But we have to have a support of our residents. In this election, not even half voted. And it's so sad, it's so sad because this is our City and please, come to meetings and understand what we're doing instead of gossiping or, or brining in lies. Because this is, we're here. So God bless all of you and thank you for being here. And I hope that you continue coming to meetings. So God bless South Tucson and let's work for South Tucson, clean up South Tucson. This is the main thing we have to do. Don't be afraid to call for people that are doing wrong around your neighbors. Call the police, call them so we can do things for our City. We have to fix it, so let's get together and do it. Thank you. God bless you.

ITEM #12 - ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Rojas to adjourn the Special Meeting. Seconded by Councilman Lopez. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Anita Romero, Vice-Mayor

ATTEST:

Veronica Moreno, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Meeting of the City Council of South Tucson, Arizona, held on the 26th day of May, 2015. I further certify the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2015.

Veronica Moreno, City Clerk