

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, held Monday, January 23, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. at the City of South Tucson Council Chambers, 1601 South 6th Avenue, South Tucson, Arizona.

Council Present: Idelfonso Green
Vanessa Mendoza
Rufino Cantu
Robert Larribas
Carlos Romo

Staff Present: Veronica Moreno, Interim City Manager
Lourdes Aguirre, Finance Director
Michael Ford, Police Chief
Marilyn Chico, Housing Director
Joel Gastelum, Planning Director

Mayor Green called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ITEM #05 – CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

Mayor Green: Anybody who would like to approach the Council and speak on anything for two minutes?

(No response from the audience)

ITEM #06 – RESOLUTION NO. 17-01 OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA, RATIFYING, APPROVING, AND ADOPTING THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH PIMA COUNTY FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM THAT INCLUDES ADMINISTRATION, COMMUNITY POLICING & CRIME PREVENTION, FIRE SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND YOUTH PROGRAMS AND FAMILY ASSISTANCE

Ms. Moreno: Thank you, Mayor, members of the Council. The first item on the agenda is Resolution No. 17-01, as the Mayor described. And just for your information and background, I have the Finance Director here to give you some in-depth information. Three of you here now are fairly new to this and we'd like to give you as much information as possible, so she can provide you with a little bit of background on what CDBG is. It's the, I'm sorry, I just blanked here. It's Community Development Block Grant that we receive from Pima County, which is very beneficial for the City and mostly all of our departments. So I'd like her to talk a little bit about that and talk about what this award here is going to be doing for the City and especially the Fire Department, and how we're so thankful for CDBG and what they have done for us for many, many years. Thank you, Lourdes.

Ms. Aguirre: Mr. Mayor, members of the Council, just to give you a brief overview, Community Development Block Grant monies are monies that come from HUD. And so they are streamed through the County to the individual jurisdictions that they go to. They are used in different areas. For example, Community Policing, and that's all depending on the different plans that are presented in the application process by the Police Department. Fire Safety Equipment, which is another area, so every year, the Fire Department goes through, analyzes what their needs are, and makes a point to put those on the application. Youth and Family Assistance, all that money that is awarded to South Tucson has been also awarded to a subcontractor, which in this case is Pio Decimo. And Pio Decimo is in charge of the administration of the Youth Center. So, in reality, this pays for a great deal of those services provided to the youth at that location. And what you see in under Administration on the agenda report is merely to help cover the cost of administration, whether it be through Fire Department, Police Department, and Finance as well. Also helps pay for the time that is spent in preparing the different reports; problematic reports and the billing. What you will notice is that there was an increase of funding in the Fire Equipment line item. Now the reason for that is that during the process of applying and also being awarded the funds, the Fire Administrator was able to include in there the need for a fire truck. So, those of you that were here a year or two ago may recall when the discussion came up about the need for a fire truck. It was extremely expensive to purchase a brand new fire truck and to buy a refurbished truck was going to cost close to \$300,000. Luckily, another jurisdiction was getting rid of surplus equipment and they listed this fire truck at \$25,000. The Fire Administrator and the Fire Mechanic went to view the equipment and after thorough inspection, deemed that it was in very good condition. And for \$25,000, they asked that that agency reserve it for South Tucson. And so once we spoke to Pima County, the County was able to agree and say, yes, increased funding will be made available to City of South Tucson to facilitate the purchasing of this fire truck. Additional monies were also made available to fully equip that fire truck. And I really wish that the Fire Administrator was here to be able to speak to you all about that, but if any of you have taken a stroll by the fire bay and seen it, it is a very nice piece of equipment. Hopefully, it is able to serve them for many years to come. The good thing about this is that the General Fund was not able to cover such a large expense like that. So thanks to funding like CDBG, we were able to cover that.

Mayor Green: Any questions?

Councilman Larribas: I do have one. Is that the new, the one that looks really new that's out there, or is it one of the older ones out there?

Ms. Aguirre: Councilman Larribas, it is the one that looks really new out there. Very shiny, very sparkly. They just did really good work on it recently.

Councilman Larribas: Okay. Because I've seen some other trucks in there that I didn't see there before so I was wondering.

Ms. Aguirre: Yes, Councilman. It's the one that looks in best shape.

Mayor Green: Okay. I do have a question and it falls under the Youth and Family Assistance. There was a difference between FY 15-16 of one twenty-five versus FY 16-17 award of \$100,000. Is that just the way the dice rolled?

Ms. Aguirre: Actually, Mayor Green, the funding for Youth and Family programs has been at around \$100,000 for the last couple years. The reason why it shows as \$125,000 in fiscal 15-16 is because ending fiscal 14-15 ...

Mayor Green: It carried over.

Ms. Aguirre: ... they had unused spent, unused funds of \$25,000, which luckily, we were able to roll into 15-16.

Mayor Green: Okay. I do recall that. Okay. Uh, what's the wishes of the Council?

Councilman Larribas: I have one more question. When you say it rolls over, does it come back so that we can use what's leftover or does it go back somewhere else?

Ms. Aguirre: That is a very good question, Councilman Larribas. Typically, when funds are left on the table, HUD sweeps them and takes them back. There are certain times when they make an exception and in this case, that was what happened for fiscal 15-16 Youth and Family Assistance.

Vice-Mayor Mendoza: Mr. Mayor, I have a question about the fire trucks, going back to the Fire Department now. The older fire truck that's out there currently as well that they've been utilizing, we plan to maintain that and are, you know, what kind of are the expenses surrounding that as far as maintaining that one in working condition, and maintaining the new one?

Ms. Aguirre: So, Mayor and Councilwoman Mendoza, the intention is to keep that vehicle and use it as the backup. Also, maintain it. Luckily, because it won't be utilized as much, as frequently, we're hoping that the cost of maintenance won't be as high as it has been.

Mayor Green: And one of the things like when I did, and that was a good question and it just reminded me when I did speak to Corey, he did happen to mention that because we do have the water cannon and the ladder truck, that actually because of the rating that the cities get like on a five, you know, from one to five, we're down to a two, which is very good for insurance purposes and everything else. So, if you'd look at the equipment that we have and the availability of it, according to the National, you know, we're more than safely covered for, you know, our ladder truck, and a water cannon on it. We don't have very many high rises except for the three-story building at the Housing. But it's a good deal. Any other questions? Wishes of the Council?

Ms. Moreno: I'd like to make one comment, Mayor, only because you mentioned that the abilities of a fire truck, I'd like to also mention, for those of you that don't know, but Corey also, unfortunately he's not here today. He took a little bit of time off. He was able to, we already have a current IGA with the City of Tucson Fire Department, but he was able to talk with people that he knew at the City and get into an automatic aid agreement which means that when the Fire Department gets called out for a fire call, any fire call, they come out automatically. Regardless, they hear it on the radio, then they come out. It can be a small brush fire to a huge fire. So those are the type of calls that Tucson Fire Department will come automatically regardless of the type of fire it is. The exception of, you know, the medical calls that (inaudible) will come out to every single fire call.

Mayor Green: Okay. Thank you. Wishes of the Council? Do I hear a motion?

Motion by Vice-Mayor Mendoza to approve Resolution No. 17-01 of the Mayor and Council. Seconded by Councilman Larribas. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM #07 - RESOLUTION NO. 17-02 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

Ms. Moreno: Thank you, Mayor, members of the Council. I'll turn it over to our Housing Director, Marilyn Chico, to give you some background information on what the write-off is for.

Ms. Chico: Mr. Mayor, Council members, especially for our new Council members, we have, we take rents from our residents, those that are determined that can pay. From time to time, they leave for whatever reason and they leave a debt. We have a write-off policy that we adhere to and HUD encourages all Housing Authorities to write these off because it shows a higher tenant account receivable if we keep them on the books. So they, HUD, encourages us, again. So this time, what you have in your packet, has to tenant name. We never mention names. They're all tenant numbers. It will show you the amount and why. Also, if they are elderly, disabled, or family. This time, it's pretty high because we had one family who owed \$6,683. What happened there is that our resident did not let us know that her husband had been working. By our policy, when that happens, we have to do a retro on them. We go back to when he started working. They're supposed to let us know. She didn't do it, so it was caught when we did an annual re-exam. Every year, we check each one of our residents. And they have a lot of paperwork they need to bring us. But they chose to leave because their monthly rent went up to \$797 a month. And they figured they could get an apartment some place else for as much or less. So they left. Most of our folks leave when they know they're in trouble with us, before the eviction starts. We have what we call a midnight move. That's when they haven't given us any notice whatsoever they're going to leave. And we find out, usually on a Monday, from another resident, that there was a U-Haul out there, or people that are taking truckloads of furniture from an apartment. We have no idea where they go, what they're doing, so we have to write-off that debt. But for every one of these debts that we write off, we also have a program where we can put in the person's name and how much they owe us. So if they apply at another Housing Authority anywhere in the country, they're going to see that they owe the South Tucson Housing Authority money. And until they pay it back to the penny, they're not allowed in any of the public housing. So this is, unfortunately, \$12,303.50 worth of people that left owing debts.

Mayor Green: Any questions?

Councilman Cantu: So is there any experiences that we have had in the past that somebody would repay that money back, give that money back?

Ms. Chico: Yes, sir. Actually, we have. We've had, of all the ones that have left, there have been two people who have come back and they've paid the debt off so they could reapply. But I, when they did reapply and they finally got to the top of our waiting list and we were actually able to house

them, that's after criminal background checks and all of that, we check our folks out. Where was I going with this? I'm so sorry.

Mayor Green: About repayment.

Ms. Chico: Oh, yes, they both repaid. And then as it turned out, when we were leasing them up, I had an addendum to both of their leases. The first time they did not pay rent in full, they were out because they already had shown what kind of people they were. And after one year, we would lift that. And one person decided no, he didn't want to move in and the other person did, signed it and did beautifully. Learned the hard way.

Councilman Cantu: Thank you.

Ms. Chico: Thank you.

Mayor Green: Any other questions from the Council? Do I have a motion?

Motion by Vice-Mayor Mendoza to approve Resolution No. 17-02 of the Mayor and Council. Seconded by Councilman Cantu. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM #08 – STUDY SESSION: ARIZONA LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS: TOM BELSHE, DIRECTOR; PRESENTATION AND ORIENTATION

Mayor Green: Ladies and gentlemen, this is going to be probably about, what, forty minutes? About forty minutes. You're more than welcome to sit in on this and hear exactly the job description of the Council versus the City Manager's position and how we work as separate and as a unit together. Tom, thank you for coming.

Ms. Moreno: Just ask for Mayor and Council to make a motion to go into Study Session.

Mayor Green: Oh, I'm sorry. I'd like to go ahead and close the Regular Meeting and go into a Study Session.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Mendoza to close the Regular Meeting and enter into Study Session. Seconded by Councilman Larribas. Motion passed unanimously.

Presentation by Mr. Tom Belche of the Arizona League of Cities and Towns followed for approximately 53 minutes.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Mendoza to close the Study Session and reconvene to Regular Meeting. Seconded by Councilman Larribas. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM #09 – EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO A.R.S. SECTIONS 38-431.03, (A)(1)(3),(A)(4) – POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CONTRACT FOR THE POSITION OF CITY MANAGER AND CITY ATTORNEY

Motion by Vice-Mayor Mendoza to close the Regular Meeting and convene into Executive Session. Seconded by Councilman Larribas. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM #10 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT: CITY MANAGER

Mayor Green: Do I have a motion?

Ms. Moreno: Mayor, if I can just revise the ...

Mayor Green: Oh, go ahead.

Ms. Moreno: ... motion. I'd like you to make the motion that ...

Mayor Green: Oh, okay.

Ms. Moreno: ... we need to close the Executive Session and reconvene back into Regular Session.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Mendoza to close the Executive Session and reconvene into Regular Meeting. Seconded by Councilman Larribas. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Green: Okay. Thank you, City Manager. Do we have anything, a motion on our discussion on it?

Motion by Councilman Romo to direct Interim City Manager to enter into contract negotiations with the candidates for the positions of City Manager and City Attorney, Mr. Bobby Yu and Sixto Molina.

Vice-Mayor Mendoza: Can we do both at the same time?

Mayor Green: That's what I was just going to ask.

Vice-Mayor Mendoza: Yeah, ...

Ms. Moreno: (Inaudible) ...

Vice-Mayor Mendoza: ... (inaudible) ...

Ms. Moreno: ... do them separate for the record.

Mayor Green: Okay. So the first one would be appointment of the City Manager, which would be for Sixto Molina. Is that what you're saying?

Councilman Romo: Yes, sir.

Mayor Green: Okay. Let the record reflect that.

Motion by Councilman Romo to direct Interim City Manager to enter into contract negotiations with Mr. Sixto Molina for the position of City Manager. Seconded by Councilman Larribas. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Moreno: Thank you. Item #11, and I just want to make sure that I got the motion correct. So this is a motion to direct the Interim City Manager to enter into negotiation with Mr. Sixto Molina for the position of City Manager. And this is, includes the appointment as well.

Mayor Green: That's correct.

Ms. Moreno: Okay. So this is a motion to direct City Manager to enter into contract negotiation for the position of City Manager to Sixto Molina and make a formal offer for the position?

Mayor Green: Correct.

Ms. Moreno: Okay. Can I get a second?

Councilman Larribas: Second.

Ms. Moreno: Thank you.

ITEM #11 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT: CITY ATTORNEY

Mayor Green: Okay. Agenda Item #11. Do we have a motion on the City Attorney?

Motion by Councilman Romo to direct Interim City Manager to enter into contract negotiations for the position of City Attorney, as discussed in Executive Session for Mr. Bobby Yu.

Mayor Green: Okay. Do we have second?

Councilman Cantu: Second.

Mayor Green: I have a motion and a second. All in favor?

Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM #12 – REPORTS

Mayor Green: City Manager?

Ms. Moreno: I have no reports, other than I want to congratulate both Mr. Sixto Molina and Bobby Yu for their appointment you just made right now, Mayor and Council. And I also want to thank all of you for having the confidence in me over the last eighteen months to be your Interim City Manager. And 2016 was, I'll say in the last twenty-four years, very challenging but I, you know, we did it and I'm very proud of it and I want to thank the staff, especially they're not here but the Chief and Joel and Marilyn

and, of course, Lourdes, I can't forget her. I mean that budget was like a monster to me. It was just like, you know, never really being that directly involved just kind of opened my eyes as to, you know, how in-depth and how hard it can be. And, you know, of course Angel with the Public Works Department and the passing of, you know, our Chief Ray Alvarez. That was really hard and I know he's a relative of our Vice-Mayor now. He'd be really proud of you, knowing that, you know, you're here still and that we have a fire truck. He worked so hard to get that fire truck and I'm really proud to see that we have that truck here. And everybody is still here. We're all whole, you know. Nobody suffered any cuts this last fiscal year and I look forward to working with Mr. Molina, who I have known since I was in my twenty-something or maybe even 19, but I want to thank Sixto for coming back and I just want to thank Mayor and Council for having the confidence in me, and I look forward for a new turn for the City of South Tucson. Thank you all.

The Mayor and Council thanked Ms. Moreno for all her efforts.

Mayor Green: And to tell you thank you is not enough for all the work that you have done, the loyalty that you have shown the employees and everyone here on this Council and previous Councils. We can't even begin to thank you, you know, because I mean it took a toll on your family life. It took a toll on, you know, with your kids especially. So, you know, know that even though you're no longer the City Manager, he's got some big shoes to fill. Once again, from everybody here, my colleagues and myself, and I believe every department head thank you.

Ms. Moreno: And I'm here to help, I mean I've always been here and, you know (inaudible) but I'll be here.

Vice-Mayor Mendoza: Thank you. The City was blessed to have had you in that capacity.

Mayor Green: Okay. So now reports you said?

Ms. Moreno: No reports.

Vice-Mayor Mendoza: I do, Mr. Mayor. Just one quick one because I already talked to the Fire Department. I just wanted, 'cause you were here, just to remind everybody about Friday, the breakfast blessing and stuff. I know there's ...

Mayor Green: Are you ...

Vice-Mayor Mendoza: ... two of you ...

Mayor Green: ... familiar with it?

Vice-Mayor Mendoza: ... but we've got two tables there, so any officers are, I mean they're paid for, they're free. You know, just have them go and it's just a thank you from the Council and the City for First Responders, mostly, because you guys are out there on the front lines and you guys are the face of South Tucson because you interact more with anyone else, so we appreciate it and we're in debt to you guys always as First Responders. So spread the word for sure and just let them know, you know. It's from 7:00 to 8:30, so it's not very long. You know, it's not taking away too much of

their day, but go ahead and spread the word that they've got places there and seats there that are open.

Mayor Green: And one other thing, Chief, I would really like to accommodate, or give you an accommodation to you and to your three officers during that incident that occurred, what was it? Two weeks ago? On that Friday night. For those people who didn't know, there was probably forty-two cop cars, or squad cars, which wasn't very, it wasn't a very good picture of South Tucson, but it wasn't, it was a, if somebody just drove by and saw it, they would think totally different of this community. But the thing was, is that your officers, I don't think everybody on the Council knows that they had a guy that was slashing himself. You know, he was walking down the street, cutting himself in the face, in the neck, and everything else. When they responded to that, what was it, there was a possible shooting, or was it a shooting at the McDonald's?

Chief Ford: (Inaudible) investigation ...

Mayor Green: It's still ...

Chief Ford: ... (inaudible) ...

Mayor Green: ... under investigation?

Chief Ford: ... (inaudible) McDonald's.

Mayor Green: So the three officers, you know, had to deal with that so they broke off, left one guy there. That left them two. Luckily, I guess it was an officer that came in because of Friday the 13th, on a full moon, came in early to, what he found was a shooting at McDonald's, or possible shooting at McDonald's and then while they were there, they heard the shots over at Martinez Funeral Home. And that was just a crazy night for everybody. But your department and the decisions that your officers made, just shows the professionalism and dedication that each of those officers have. You know, to include you because you were there. And with that, I would love to thank you on behalf of myself and the Council, or the Council and myself. So, and please, you know, express our gratitude to those individuals, or to your whole department, actually, on behalf of the Council.

Chief Ford: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

ITEM #13 - ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Vice-Mayor Mendoza to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Seconded by Councilman Larribas. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

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 Regular Meeting of the City Council of South Tucson, Arizona, held on the 23rd day of January, 2017. I further certify the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2017.

Veronica Moreno, City Clerk