

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, held Monday, February 10, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. at the City of South Tucson Council Chambers, 1601 South 6th Avenue, South Tucson, Arizona.

Council Present: Paul Diaz
Miguel Rojas
Mary Soltero
Ildefonso Green
Vanessa Mendoza
Oscar Patino
Anita Romero

Staff Present: Luis Gonzales, City Manager
Veronica Moreno, City Clerk
Joel Gastelum, Planner
William Lackey, Police Chief
Dennis Rankin, Police Dept.
Edward Cajas, Sgt. Police Dept.
Marilyn Chico, Housing Director
Andrea de Castillo, City Attorney

Guests: Victor Dosten

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

ITEM #03 – INVOCATION – Councilman Patino led the Invocation.

ITEM #04 – ROLL CALL – All members of the Council were present.

ITEM #05 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Unavailable

ITEM #06 – RESOLUTION NO. 14-02 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 DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT SAME TO HUD AND ITS FEE ACCOUNTANT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO EXIST – Mr. Gonzales stated this item is in regards to uncollectible debts in the sum of \$2,014.00, owed by six former tenants. Councilman Rojas asked how the debts are shown on the books if the

collection agency is successful in collecting the debts. Ms. Chico stated right now there is no contract with a collection agency for uncollected debts. Ms. Chico will contact Judge Wilson to find out details about the collection agency the court uses. Mayor Diaz asked what budget line item will be used once the Housing Authority receives the money. Ms. Chico stated it will be returned to administrative cost for public housing low rent. Mr. Gonzales advised Ms. Chico to contact the Finance Dept. instead of Judge Wilson. Motion by Councilman Rojas to pass and adopt Resolution No. 14-02. Seconded by Councilwoman Soltero. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM #07 – RESOLUTION NO. 14-03 OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA, PERTAINING TO THE SUBMISSION OF PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION IN ARIZONA’S 2015 HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN – Mr. Gonzales explained this resolution allows for the submission of two grants in the amount of \$60,000 to the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety for funding for pedestrian and bicycle safety educational materials and for vehicle extrication equipment. Councilman Green asked if South Tucson will administer materials or whether that would be done by an outside agency, to which Mr. Gastelum responded it would be South Tucson. Motion by Councilman Rojas to pass Resolution No. 14-03 of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, pertaining to the Submission of Projects for Consideration in Arizona’s 2015 Highway Safety Plan. Seconded by Councilman Green. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM #08 – PUBLIC HEARING – CONSOLIDATION OF ELECTIONS – Mr. Gonzales stated that the State Legislature approved a law last year which requires municipalities who have elections in odd numbered years to have their elections in even numbered years. South Tucson is one such municipality. Mr. Gonzales stated the effects of the law will be that the election dates will be extended by about a year and a half. The second portion would allow for the terms of the current members of the Council to be extended. Mr. Gonzales stated there was a posted notice and fliers were sent out to residents regarding tonight’s public hearing. Motion by Councilman Rojas to open the Public Hearing. Seconded by Councilwoman Soltero. Motion passed unanimously.

No comments were received from the public.

Motion by Councilman Rojas to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Councilman Green. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM #09 – REPORTS

Mr. Gonzales informed the Council that the jackets on their chairs are compliments of the South Tucson Police Department.

Mayor Diaz stated he is considering a project to change the name of Sixth Avenue to Caesar Chavez Boulevard. It is anticipated there will be no cost to the City as donations will cover the cost of street signs. Councilman Rojas suggested contacting the City of Tucson to see if they would be interested in a joint effort in renaming the street up to I-10 as there is a small park named in honor of Caesar Chavez on 17th or 18th Street. Mr. Gonzales stated he has had a conversation with City of Tucson Manager who says there is a plan to name a street Caesar Chavez Boulevard in the future. However, that is probably a ways off because of the process they must follow. Mr. Gonzales will explore the possibilities of the City of South Tucson moving forward on its own and/or partnering with the City of Tucson.

Mr. Gonzales stated he hopes to have the State Department Treasurer staff available to talk about the taxation issue changes which take effect next year regarding the tax structure of the _____ Privilege Tax. Mr. Gonzales stated it will be important to ensure property/business owners understand what the new procedures will be for collection regarding the commercial and rental tax.

The following is the transcript of the remainder of the Reports Section:

Councilman Green: As a City, we have the right to name the streets, alleys, sidewalks and everything else. One of the things that, while I was doing some research, came across and found out that the City does not have the ability by A.R.S. to name buildings. This building is named, you know, after Mr. Eckstrom. We're in violation of our, of A.R.S. It was under a proclamation. And in order for transparency, if we're going to do that and try to get everything straightened, we need to start, you know, cleaning up our house also.

Mr. Gonzales: Mr. Mayor, Councilman Green, I'm aware that there is a law that exits relevant to that. I do not know whether or not there might be another law that may supersede that law. I will be giving that information to our attorney to research it and give us the legal interpretation of that, per your request, to determine whether or not the existing municipal building has been named legally or not. I do not know that at this point. But it's an interesting ...

Councilman Rojas: Observation.

Mr. Gonzales: ... (inaudible) as to whether or not the City does have or does not have the authority to name municipal buildings or not. I know they have the authority to do parks, for example, streets.

Councilman Green: Mm hm. Sidewalks, alleys.

Mr. Gonzales: But I am not sure of the question that you (inaudible). However, we'll do some legal research to determine.

Mayor Diaz: Are there any more questions or comments? No? Thank you.

ITEM #10 – CALL TO THE AUDIENCE –

Victor Dosten addressed the Council. He stated that on a personal level, he has been working with the houseless population since January 11. He meets with people and identifies their need, and volunteers at the Primavera Foundation through the Homeless Intervention Program and through Project Action for Veterans. On a professional level, he stated he is associated with Veterans in Need Foundation, which has chapters in Florida, Texas, and California. The foundation is registered as a corporation in Arizona and would like to start up in Tucson and Phoenix.

Mayor Diaz asked about the Madera construction to which Mr. Gonzales responded there is a deadline where they need to ensure the final piece is approved, and that there is a clean deed. The traded properties will then be transferred. Mr. Gonzales stated all this must be done by the end of March. Councilman Green stated the City does not have the ability, by State statute, to name buildings. He stated the municipal building is named after Mr. Eckstrom, which is in violation of State statute. Mr. Gonzales stated he is aware of an existing law relevant to that but he does not know if there is another law which supersedes that law. He will provide the information to the City Attorney for research and legal interpretation.

ITEM #11 – ADJOURNMENT - Motion by Councilman Rojas to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Seconded by Councilman Green. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Paul Diaz, 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 10th day of February, 2014. I further certify the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2014.

Veronica Moreno, City Clerk