

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING (Budget Connect) OF THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHANDLER, ARIZONA, held in the Council Chambers, 88 E. Chicago St., on Thursday, February 25, 2016.

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR JAY TIBSHRAENY AT 6:02 P.M.

The following members were present:	Jay Tibshraeny	Mayor
	Jack Sellers	Vice-Mayor
	Rick Heumann	Councilmember
	Kevin Hartke	Councilmember
	Terry Roe	Councilmember
	René Lopez	Councilmember
	Nora Ellen	Councilmember

Mayor Tibshraeny explained for many years this opportunity has allowed the community to openly interact with the City Council and City Staff in the budget process. Several hundred responses were received during the recent budget survey.

Mayor Tibshraeny read a comment received as part of the Budget Survey. "We think Chandler should be known as the City of Parks and Recreation. What does the future hold for new parks in Chandler?"

Mr. Mickey Ohland, Parks Operations Manager, said it has always been a goal to develop at least one neighborhood per square mile of residential development. There are 65 developed parks, 49 are neighborhood parks. Over the next three years, there are 3 more neighborhood parks to develop. He noted out of the 65 parks, over half are over 20 years old. Monthly inspections are done, as well as citizen feedback, to determine upgrades to these parks.

In response to a question from Councilmember Hartke, Mr. Ohland said a sports field assessment was recently completed to determine needs for the next 10-20 years. He noted one area of need is practice space. Over the past two years, approximately 3-4 acres of turf has been added at Tumbleweed as well as a turf upgrade at Chuparosa Park.

The Mayor read another question received during the Budget Survey. "What is the City doing to implement body cameras, training and monitoring for law enforcement to ensure interaction with the public remains both lawful and constructive?"

Police Chief Duggan responded that over 2 years ago the use of body cameras was reviewed for use not only as a tool to help do an efficient accountable job, but also to demonstrate the commitment to reviewing and implementing the best practices in policing. He explained a small test group was started the first year for evaluation of cameras, and training and policy development. That was scaled up to 40 cameras, and in July, 2015 Council approved funding for another 160 more, for a total of 200 cameras in place for first responders. In December 2015, Council approved a contract with Taser for the purchase of the 160 cameras, hardware, software, and the Cloud storage solution. He anticipates the full implementation will be completed by May. Councilmember Heumann thanked Chief Duggan for the research and information provided in implementing this program. Chief Duggan added that they have partnered with Arizona State University to help monitor the value of the program. A report to Council will be made and he anticipates a reduction in law suits, fewer use of force incidents, and quicker adjudication on cases.

BUDGET SURVEY RESULTS:

BUDGET MANAGER GREG WESTRUM said the annual citizen budget survey provides feedback on the programs and services. The recent Priority Based Budgeting process identified over 350 programs and services the City provides. He explained the survey serves as a report card from the citizens on how well the City is providing leadership, quality of life issues, and return on their tax dollar. He noted 98% of the respondents say the city is performing “excellent, very good or satisfactory”. He noted 97% respondents say the quality of life in Chandler is either “excellent or very good” and 86% believe they get a good return on their various tax dollars.

He explained the second section of the survey asked the respondents to rate some of the various services the city performs. He said a sampling includes fire emergency, police patrol, transportation, street maintenance and traffic management, leisure, cultural and youth activities and library. The entire survey and results are online at the city’s website.

MAYOR TIBSHRAENY read a question received from the Budget Survey. The question read, “I would like to see more done for the northern part of the city. What is being planned?” Economic Development Director Micah Miranda said north Chandler is a very important point of emphasis. Recently an Adaptive Reuse Overlay District was put in to place which allows reuse of existing building productive in that area of the city. The Infill Incentive Program is also a great tool. He said north Chandler holds about 8% of total employment and 17% of industrial space and is still a very vibrant and vital to the community.

The MAYOR read a question received from Twitter that asked “How does the City prepare to maintain its aging infrastructure particularly older streets?” Transportation and Development Director R.J. ZEDER replied that the total operating and capital budget for street maintenance is approaching \$15 million yearly. The method used to determine where that money goes is that every 3 years an outside engineering company comes in to evaluate every lane mile of public street in Chandler. That data is used to determine the pavement quality index. The index is used to determine what type of maintenance is required. The Mayor said the investment in that funding is critical and needs to be supported, if not increased. Mr. Zeder said the public has various ways to report issues to the City about pavement quality.

The MAYOR read a Facebook submittal that asked “How is Chandler doing compared to other cities coming out of the recession?” The Mayor noted Chandler is doing well mainly due to policies put in place. In addition, the Council during that time, made many prudent moves to further help that. He said since then, there has been other economic activity to help bolster the revenue; although Chandler remains cautious as there are global and legislative impacts that could impact us. Management Services Director DAWN LANG agreed with the comments by the Mayor and said the Council and staff were able to address expenditure reduction, reallocation, and adjust quickly to a new “normal” during the recession. Because of those moves, the City was able to come out of the recession faster and stronger than before.

COUNCILMEMBER HEUMANN commented that the city did many things to avoid furlough days, layoffs, and reduction in pay and hours. He gave kudos to the staff for working through these times.

COUNCILMEMBER HARTKE commented additionally, the rebound of sales tax and the confidence of consumers. MS. LANG said through the recession they saw a dramatic reduction in the Transaction Privilege tax in addition to state shared revenues. During that time, consumer confidence was low. She believed the consumer confidence gained as the city progressed through the next years as additional development began. Chandler saw consumer confidence

return quicker than in surrounding cities.

MAYOR read another question "The Senior Center is too small for the volume of seniors attending. Are there plans to look at making changes to the Senior Center?" Ms. Barbara Young, Acting Community Services Director, said ages 55 to 74 will see a projected increase in growth of 40% over the next 5 years. She said there is a need to do a study to identify the current level of resources available. She said they anticipate completing an assessment in the next budget year.

The MAYOR read the next question: "What is being planned to enhance the downtown area so there are more things for single mature adults to do?" Ms. Kim Moyers, Downtown Redevelopment Manager said currently there are several city venues with the Center for the Arts, Vision Gallery, and the year round programming at the Library. In addition, the Downtown Chandler Community Partnership hosts weekly Farmers Markets, monthly Art Walks, and dozens of events throughout the year. The new Downtown Stage will accommodate events for up to 10,000 people. She cited the restaurants and other venues downtown. She noted the proposed cinema and additional restaurants.

BUDGET AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN OVERVIEW:

MANAGEMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR DAWN LANG said the budget is a financial operations and capital spending plan for the community which reflects citizen needs through Mayor and Council decisions.

Ms. Lang said the Local Sales Tax, Franchise Fees and State Shared Revenues make the largest portion of the general operating fund. The water, wastewater and utility charges go specifically to Enterprise Funds that cannot be used for general operations. System Development fees are also collected. Other services, charges and receipts also provide revenue. Property taxes are both primary and secondary. The primary funds the General Fund and the secondary is the portion that supports the debt service on capital infrastructure. She reported that Chandler has one of the lowest tax rates in the Valley.

Ms. Lang displayed a pie chart showing how the monies are spent between Public Safety, Transportation and Development, Municipal Utilities, Community & Neighborhood Services, Management Services, and General Government. The largest portion goes to major capital which shows the investment in community by maintaining infrastructure and providing additional infrastructure.

She noted revenues have to equal expenditures. Many challenges occur during the year and in 2016-17, a challenge is using ongoing revenue for ongoing expenditures. Manage the expenditure growth by maintaining our existing service levels and prioritizing ongoing demands. Ms. Lang said it is important to be watchful of legislative impacts.

Ms. Lang said citizen input is welcomed and outlined the upcoming dates for citizen comments. The Mayor thanked Ms. Lang for the update.

The MAYOR read the next question received "Is there any chance of making left turn signal lights a few seconds longer?". Mr. Zeder said the challenge is when working with an approximate 2 minute cycle, if you add time to the left turn arrow, you must reduce green time from that leg of the intersection. He explained they use a fairly sophisticated modeling program called "Synchro". This summer they will work in north Chandler, in particular those intersections with double turn

lanes, to determine if longer left arrows can be added.

COUNCILMEMBER LOPEZ asked about the traffic cameras and low traffic flow times. Mr. Zeder replied they have expanded the use of flashing yellows. During the peak travel times, you are only able to make a left turn on the arrow. However, in the evenings when traffic volumes are lower, by adding the flashing yellow, it is safer to make that movement. That is also a project they are actively expanding. He added the cameras and detectors help quite a bit. The cameras on the mast arms of the signals are a sensor that can detect vehicles in the left turn lane, and also allows Traffic Management Center staff to visually keep an eye on intersections which allows them to real time adjust timing.

The Mayor read a Facebook post that asked if the City plans to take any action to reduce the sewer roach and rat population in northwest Chandler. The Mayor noted the roof rat issues can be addressed by Maricopa County Vector Control. Gregg Capps, Acting Municipal Utilities Director said there is a maintenance program for sewer manholes. They are inspected on a routine basis. Staff will make inspections upon citizen requests. He said roaches can come from the manholes or through vegetation around homes. They recommend keeping moisture and vegetation away from the home.

In response to a comment from the Mayor, Mr. Capps confirmed that after a manhole has been treated, a color will be put on the manhole that indicates the year the inspection and treatment was made.

The Mayor said another comment made by a citizen is that they would like to see a ranking of the City of Chandler against other cities in terms of utility costs, taxes, etc.

Ms. Lang referred to a comparison that the City of Tempe prepares annually and shows from 2013-2015. It incorporates how much an average home would spend on the water, wastewater, solid waste, property taxes and sales tax. Chandler compares as the second lowest to all the other cities. She reviewed a single family residential utility bill that includes water, wastewater and solid waste, assuming the use of 12,000 gallons. She noted Chandler is second lowest with the other valley cities.

She said Chandler is the third lowest in property tax rate for the valley cities. She noted that for every dollar that is spent on property tax, ten cents is what Chandler's portion is. The larger portion goes to the school district, County and other districts.

The Mayor and Council members each expressed their appreciation for the work of staff and for those citizens who participated in the budget survey and process.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

Mayor

Approved: March 17, 2016

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 Chandler, Arizona, held on the 25th day of February 2016. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DATED this _____ day of March, 2016.

City Clerk