

**WORK SESSION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF EL MIRAGE
EL MIRAGE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
10000 N. EL MIRAGE ROAD
5:30 PM – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2017**

Minutes

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Lana Mook, Councilmember Bob Jones, Councilmember Roy Delgado, Councilmember Lynn Selby, Councilmember Jack Palladino, Councilmember David Shapera

II. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 5:33p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance
Moment of Silence

III. P1. Presentation by League of Arizona Cities and Towns. (Administration)

Mayor Mook introduced Executive Director Ken Strobek and Deputy Director Tom Belshe from the League of Arizona Cities and Towns and gave a quick bio of each.

Mr. Strobeck has been the Director at the League of Arizona Cities and Towns since 2006. Previously he served as Executive Director of the League of Oregon Cities and was a three-term State Representative in the Oregon Legislature where he was Speaker Pro Tem (1999-2000) and Chairman of the House Revenue Committee (1997-2000). Among other groups he has served with he was a Board member of the National League of Cities and named Executive of the Year in 2013 by the Arizona Society of Association Executives.

Mr. Belshe has been with the League since 2004. Previously, he served as an Assistant Deputy Director for the Department of Commerce overseeing the operation of the Community Development Division from 2001 until 2004. He was appointed Executive Director of the Greater Arizona Development Authority (GADA) in 1999 and prior to his appointment as Executive Director he developed the Technical Assistance and Community Outreach programs for GADA. His work at the League includes experience in coordinating the League's training programs, publications, conferences, and website and inquiry program.

Mr. Strobeck began his presentation with a brief history of the League which has been in existence for 80 years and was founded in 1937. He remarked on the legacy left by the late Mr. Jack DeBolske, who worked for the League for 40 years and was a committed advocate for the council-manager form of government. He is credited in large part with the reason Arizona is today a council-manager state for cities and towns; all 91 incorporated cities in Arizona use the council-manager structure. This form of local government began in Virginia just over 100 years ago and is now the primary form of government for cities, towns and counties across the nation.

He explained that this form of government is so widely adopted because it incorporates the best features of accountability, professionalism, separation of powers, and anti-corruption while other forms of government are more susceptible to political or financial influence, nepotism, and the appearance of favoritism. He further explained in detail the strong distinction between governance and management; the Council makes policy decisions but does not run the city on a day-to-day basis while the Manager with the education, training and professional credentials directs municipal operations. He likened it to a corporate structure where the Board would be similar to the Council with the Mayor similar to the Chairman of the Board. The Board then hires a CEO, similar to the City Manager, who in turn hires professional department heads to carry out the directives of the Board. Mr. Stobeck stressed the importance of the Council being aware of and protecting its legislative immunity status by their policy-making role; once that role changes to a supervisory or management role, that immunity is waived and Council members are vulnerable to legal action regarding labor and employment practices, libel, slander, and any number of other potential topics open for lawsuits. He concluded by saying the council-manager form of government is the preferred structure in Arizona because it provides for open, efficient, and accountable government at the local level.

Mr. Belshe explained his role and function with the League that provides education and assistance to 91 Arizona cities and towns. He works directly with numerous Professional Development Associations that includes the Arizona City/County Managers Association, the Government Finance Officers of Arizona Association, the Arizona Municipal Clerks Association, and the Arizona City Attorneys Association. He stated that city management is extremely complex and professionals are required to be current on a variety of state laws and rulings. The League reviews and advocates on behalf of cities and towns on approximately 400 different pieces of legislation annually and then provides education to the professional associations to keep them current and proficient in changing legislation that effects their respective areas of expertise. The council-manager form of government, from the League's experience and observation over the years, has proven to be the most ethical and efficient form of local government that allows cities to succeed.

There were no questions for either Mr. Strobeck or Mr. Belshe; the mayor thanked them for their presentation and they departed the meeting.

The Mayor then asked all department level staff members to stand and provide their title, education level and years of experience in government. After all staff provided Council with this information, the Mayor asked for a show of hands of Council members who had an Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, or Masters Degree; Councilor Shapera was the only Councilor who responded to the Mayor's inquiry. She further stated her point was that the City has an incredibly proficient and experienced group of staff members and they should be respected in their respective fields and congratulated for providing the city with their professionalism.

IV. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF EL MIRAGE
EL MIRAGE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
10000 N. EL MIRAGE ROAD
FOLLOWING WORK SESSION – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2017**

Minutes

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Lana Mook, Councilmember Bob Jones, Councilmember Roy Delgado, Councilmember Lynn Selby, Councilmember Jack Palladino, Councilmember David Shapera

II. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance
Moment of Silence

III. PROCLAMATION

- PI.** Proclamation to support Arizona Rail Safety Week, September 24 - 30, 2017.
(Councilor Selby)

Councilor Selby reported that for the past 40 years Operation Life Saver has worked to educate the public to keep themselves safe around railroad tracks and to support September 24th through September 30th as Arizona Rail Safety Week.

Forty years ago the average number of collisions at U.S. highway railway crossings between trains and vehicles were over 20,000 annually. After forty years of educating the public, that number has been reduced to 2,900 crashes throughout the United States.

Every three hours in the United States a train hits a person or a vehicle. Phoenix, Arizona has the six most dangerous crossings and they are all on Grand Avenue. On September 24th both police officers and volunteers from Operation Life Savers will be passing out leaflets at all six crossings for a three hour period to educate the public on safety around railroad crossings. During 2016 there were 57 highway-grade crossing crashes in the State of Arizona which resulted in three deaths and 25 injuries; the motto is Look, Listen, and Live!

This proclamation encourages all citizens throughout the year to observe added caution as motorists or pedestrians near tracks or trains.

Mayor Lana Mook proclaimed and recognized September 24 - 30, 2017 as ARIZONA RAIL SAFETY WEEK in the City of El Mirage.

IV. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Citizens desiring to speak on a matter that IS NOT on this agenda may do so at this time. Comments shall be limited to three (3) minutes per person and shall be addressed to the City Council as a whole. At the conclusion of the Call to the Public, individual City Council Members may (1) respond to criticism made by those who have spoken (2) direct staff to review or respond to the matter, and/or (3) direct that the matter be put on a future agenda.

Mayor Mook announced she would reverse the order of agenda items C1 and C2 on the Call to the Public to allow the public to speak first.

C2. New Call to the Public

Resident **Anita Norton** reported about the recent media report of a July 18th police incident in Buckeye involving a 14 year-old autistic boy. Ms. Norton stated that a Buckeye Police Officer mistakenly detained and injured the 14 year-old boy, thinking he was on drugs. She advised Council that on Thursday, September 28th, the City of Surprise is hosting a mental health resource awareness meeting at the city of Surprise Library with a focus on educating law enforcement personnel on how to deal with people who have various disorders, mental illness, autism, and Down syndrome and recognizing the different behaviors. She encouraged El Mirage law enforcement, teachers and those that work with the public to attend this very worthwhile meeting as law enforcement should know about this; she would not like to see this kind of thing happen in El Mirage.

Ms. Norton further reported that she recently posted a video on El Mirage Neighborhood Watch regarding the stresses that public safety officers go through including both fire and police personnel. She encouraged all to review the video and get an understanding of the stresses that public safety personnel go through on a regular basis, and ask what more can be done to support them. The City of Surprise is currently recruiting fire fighters. She stated she believes El Mirage is understaffed for fire fighters and El Mirage should be recruiting as well. She posed the question on whether El Mirage can match what the city of Surprise is offering right next door stating it is a good question she wanted all to answer.

Resident **Steve Gilliam** referenced a speaker from the previous meeting who claimed El Mirage needed a new fire station down the street. He commented on the saying that “liars can figure, but figures can’t lie.” He stated that of the six surrounding cities of Youngtown, Peoria, Surprise, Glendale, Sun City, and Sun City West as well as Luke Air Force Base, El Mirage is the smallest city with the exception of Youngtown. He gave a hypothetical example of 100 responses by the El Mirage Fire Department stating that if 15 of those responses were within the City and 85 of them were for calls in surrounding cities, that is a figure that should be considered and factored into determining the need for the City to spend millions of dollars to build a second fire station. He stated it is not cost effective when El Mirage is landlocked and unable to expand much further while neighboring cities have more land and are able to expand. He also mentioned nearby cities’ plans to

build more fire stations in Surprise, Glendale, and at the Casino in Glendale that would help regionally; he wanted to see a map showing fire station locations, current and planned, to see areas of coverage. He asked why the City would want to incur more debt when many of the responses are outside the city; helping other cities is okay but not if disproportionately relative to El Mirage citizens.

Resident **Michelle Chagolla** stated she wanted to speak on two issues. The first issue concerned an excessive amount of mosquito in her area. She stated she reported to the Maricopa County Health Department on September 1st and after she completed an environmental complaint form was told they would send somebody out. She has also called the hotline and reported the issue. So far she has not received any response from the Maricopa County Health Department and asked Council if there is something the City can do to assist in this matter. The second issue involved a post she read regarding an incident in Grand Mirage where a resident claimed there was no response from the El Mirage Police Department on a reported home break in and she requested the matter be looked into.

Mayor Mook advised Ms. Chagolla that if she would provide the City Clerk with her contact phone number, these issues would be followed up on and someone from the City would get back to her.

Resident **Beth Simek** stated she wanted to speak on behalf of the Fire and Police Departments. Ms. Simek alleged Mr. Gilliam must have forgotten about the City Bond approval several years ago by the residents of El Mirage for a new Fire Station. She stated she believes the City has understaffed Fire and Police departments that are expected to respond to emergencies in the community and there is a situation where the City Administration seems to not want to support them in a manner that would make them competitive with other cities and this concerns her. She stated that instead of working towards fixing the problem, there's a continuous circle of rumors that the Chiefs are going to be fired at any point in time whenever something like this comes up. She wondered why it is that whenever a public safety department asks for any kind of monetary support, the Chiefs are then potentially put on a chopping block; how is this going to fix the problem and how is this going to support the morale of these departments if this is a constant source of concern in El Mirage. Currently the city of Surprise is recruiting at an entry level fire department position at \$16.80 an hour while El Mirage's starting rate is \$15.49 an hour. At that current rate of pay and raise structure, an El Mirage firefighter has to work seven years before he or she makes what is equivalent to what a starting City of Surprise firefighter makes. Ms. Simek feels this is unfair and stated El Mirage is on its third Chief in seven years. She asked the question of how many Chiefs does the City have to go through before there is some kind of change or the real problem is identified.

Resident **Dale Stackhouse** referenced Mr. Gilliam's comments earlier in the Council meeting and asked the question "how many calls does the City of El Mirage go down for when they roll out for other cities?" He asked if they lose their medic on a truck riding on an ambulance to a hospital, how long is a fire department down for; this is why he stated in the September 7th Council meeting that with the bond

that was passed for the second fire house and with the current resident numbers in El Mirage, there should be enough coverage when an engine is down or when an engine is covering another City so response times are not doubled if not tripled. Mr. Stackhouse further stated that during the slide show at the September 7th Council meeting an Excel spreadsheet pertaining to the cost of Police training did not show training time, court time, or overtime or the proper training that officers require. He further reported Councilman Jones stated in a town hall meeting held on August 22nd that both Mayor Mook and City Manager Isom were under investigation by the Attorney General's office for criminal activity. Mr. Stackhouse asked that if there is a criminal investigation by the Attorney General's office underway, why wasn't the public made aware and why isn't anything being done about it.

Mr. Stackhouse addressed the Mayor directly regarding providing both the Mayor and City Clerk with his contact phone number during the September 7th Council meeting in order that he may be provided a response to his public comments; to date he has not received a phone call.

He concluded by stating it is the City Council's job to provide the appropriate money, time, and equipment for first responders and he believes this is not being done. He believes both Chief Wise and Chief McDonald have their hands tied by the City Manager and the City Council is not giving them the appropriate money, time, and equipment to deal with the citizens of El Mirage. He wants to know why he hasn't received any phone calls or how the City is going to correct the deficiencies he has listed.

Mayor Mook addressed Mr. Stackhouse and stated that she has not spoken to Mr. Stackhouse nor received a phone number or written request from him. Mr. Stackhouse responded that he provided his number to both the Mayor and City Clerk and that the City Clerk is agreeing with this statement. Mr. Stackhouse also claimed that the Mayor stated in the September 7th Council meeting that she would call him which he stated is not in the minutes and he wants to know why. Mayor Mook does not recall taking his number or stating she would call him.

City Clerk Antes commented to set the record straight that Mr. Stackhouse did provide his number to both the Mayor and herself, but also noted that the Mayor asked both speakers from the September 7th Council meeting if they wanted answers to their questions made in public, to which they both responded yes, and those are the questions that are about to be answered. Mr. Stackhouse then asked the Mayor what was the point in asking for his number if the response was going to be in public and was advised that it is a normal practice in order to contact a resident should more information be needed.

- C1. At the request of Call to the Public speakers from the September 7, 2017 Council Meeting, answers to questions raised will be provided in public session.

City Manager Isom stated that for the record it was his recollection that at the conclusion of the September 7th meeting the speakers were asked if they wanted a response in public and that is what the City has prepared for tonight's meeting. Dr.

Isom stated though not speaking for the Mayor, he presumes that phone numbers are requested so that the City Clerk can contact individuals for clarification purposes. He also commented that Mr. Stackhouse is certainly entitled to his opinions and is welcome to express them at Call to the Public.

CM Isom referenced the September 7, 2017 Council Meeting and a question from Ms. Carrie Barter and apologized if he got the name wrong.

Ms. Barter had asked the question “Why won’t the City fund a second engine?” CM Isom answered that the City Manager and Council were previously providing staffing for two engines with 24 firefighters which allowed for two engines to operate. At the request of the Fire Chief and with the support of the El Mirage Fire Fighters Association, staffing for the second engine was eliminated and three new battalion chiefs and an administrative Captain position were created and other backfield promotions were given. At the request of the Chief and the El Mirage Fire Fighter Associations, firefighter staffing was reduced from 24 firefighters, engineers, and captains down to 18 firefighters, engineers, and captains. Three battalion chiefs and one administrative captain were created which was a new staffing model that came at their request. The rationale they gave in favor of this new model was it would provide better service than the two engine configurations and up until very recently, the department expressed a high level of satisfaction for the model, they, and not the City Manager developed. From a budget perspective, if the Fire Department is now changing its position in favor of a two-engine model, the cost to add back a fire fighter is approximately \$88,000. This cost can be offset by eliminating the three newly created Battalion Chiefs and the Administrative Captain; eliminating these four positions would save \$500,000 annually while allowing the City to hire up to six new fire fighters. There would be an additional one-time cost to put a second engine back in service, but it bears repeating the Fire Chief and the El Mirage Fire Fighters Association have not stated to the City Manager that the current model is not working and that reverting to the previous Staffing and operation model is preferred by them.

The second question pertained to response times being higher than the national standard and how was this acceptable?

CM Isom responded to this by stating that the City of El Mirage’s response time for the month of August, amid all the construction, was six minutes and seventeen seconds. The Fire Chief had stated that that was a good average response time and competes with surrounding departments. The NFPA standard is 240 seconds or four minutes. The El Mirage Fire Chief has stated that this is a goal for average response times and few departments achieve that goal on an ongoing basis.

Question Number Three – How you can expect a department of 24 to respond to calls, do inspections, hydrant testing, and not see the need to increase manpower?

CM Isom stated that the City has 24 people in its fire department, dedicated to fire services and three in the department dedicated to building and fire inspections. He recapped to explain that is 18 frontline responders, nine of whom are EMTS and

nine certified paramedics, three captains, three engineers, three responding battalion chiefs and one operations chief plus an administrative captain and a fire chief. The building department has one building official, one inspector, and one permit technician. The City currently has a study that out on the street to have a professional third party look at the El Mirage fire services and the effectiveness of services provided. There has been a great deal of inquiry asking for additional information and an outside service can do a professional analysis of the department which should shed light on the true effectiveness of the department as well as provide recommendations for the Council to consider in the future.

CM Isom addressed two questions asked by Mr. Dale Stackhouse from the September 7th Council meeting.

The first question by Mr. Stackhouse asked how it was possible that the City Manager was able to put ten percent of his pay into a deferred payment plan, when Firefighters are only allowed to put ten dollars into it - how is this fair and across the board?

CM Isom stated that on September 16, 2014, the City Council unanimously approved an addendum to the City Manager's contract establishing ten percent of the salary for the deferred compensation plan. This additional benefit put the City of El Mirage in line with what was being provided to other City Managers in the West Valley. Firefighters receive an additional \$25.00 each pay period for a deferred compensation account and an additional \$10.00 each pay period for post-employment health plan or PEP. There are no other employee groups that receive additional compensation except for Police Officers who receive an extra \$35.00 each pay period for a deferred compensation account.

Mr. Stackhouse's second question stated that the Council and citizens all voted for a second Fire house right next to the Police Department and the YMCA so why has it not been built yet?

CM Isom responded there was never a vote for a second firehouse in addition to the existing fire station and the new Fire Station that was approved in 2008 was never intended to be built near the existing Police Station and YMCA. At the November 4, 2008 General Election, voters were asked for authorization to issue General Obligation Bonds in the principal amount of not to exceed \$16 million dollars payable from secondary property tax. If approved at the election, the bonds, which are the subject of the election, would provide for a new fire station, (note it was not a second fire station), a new park and street improvements. The bond measure passed at that election. The new fire station broke ground at its present location on August 22, 2011 and the new fire station grand opening was held on September 5, 2012. There were many public meetings held about the Fire Station and its location and CM Isom stated he believed this Council did an excellent job, as it always has at having public discussion and visioning sessions, and the fire station was built at its existing location next to the old fire station.

CM Isom stated Mr. Stackhouse's third question was already asked and answered with regard to response times with only one engine running at all times, very similar to what Ms. Barter had already asked.

Mr. Stackhouse's fourth question was how is it that the City is able to put cameras on almost every corner for speeding, but cannot put more cops on the beat.

CM Isom stated the City has a small police department and it was established long ago that there are more important police matters for officers to attend to other than sitting on an off-street, monitoring speed. The use of photo enforcement technology allows El Mirage to use its officers to focus on things such as domestic violence and crime. Money from photo enforcement goes to support police operations and to offset the City's obligation to fund the construction of a new Northern Parkway, a regional transportation project. Again, there have been many public discussions, public articles and debates over photo enforcement and this Council has been consistent in its position and desire to use that technology.

CM Isom addressed Mr. Stackhouse and referred to the front page of the recent El Mirage newsletter which addresses the Manager's intention to increase the number of Police Officers due to the increase in population. This will require the Council to remain responsible in its spending and management of the City's limited resources to include management of its public safety expenditures and commitments, as well as ongoing personnel costs which are the City's largest expense. The City of El Mirage, compared to other cities, is last, not second to last, but last of the West Valley cities with regard to revenues, especially amongst those cities that have the most police and fire. The discussions over the years about budget, how the Council spends its resources, and what the priorities are, have been very public.

CM Isom stated this is a game that happens; in fact he received a letter from the Fire Association late this afternoon. The game that is played throughout the Valley, and he stated he will say this to his fellow citizens, employees, neighbors and Council, the game is that the Fire Association and the Police Association fund public officials to try to encourage them to show them favor; they do it in El Mirage and they do it in other places. The City of El Mirage has been very responsible with limited resources. The City has sought direction from its Police and Fire Chiefs. He stated that he wanted to take this opportunity to comment on the claim that the chiefs are scared for their jobs; he suspects and had done some inquiries but believes that notion is coming from the Association itself. CM Isom stated he meets with his Police and Fire chiefs on a weekly basis, and while they may have disagreements on things, discussions are had and then they move on, same as with all the department heads. The notion that the chiefs are scared of their jobs is nothing but a scare tactic.

CM Isom stated that he has spoken openly and honestly and commented that in reference to City Staff and their subsequent qualifications, he believes they were recorded accurately. He then addressed Mayor Mook and asked if he may respond to some of the earlier comments brought up in this meeting.

Mayor Mook said yes he could but before doing so, she asked him to describe the 2011 meeting when they discussed building a fire station and why the City selected the location of the new fire station.

CM Isom responded that the previous Fire Chief presented Council with several maps showing various response times. The City had limited resources then just like it has now and a discussion was held on whether to build a new station or a second one, and it was clearly discussed that the City could not afford a second station. The ideal location was right next to the existing one. City Manager Isom stated the costs for a second station would have also needed to cover staffing and maintaining two stations and the City had limited resources as it does today.

CM Isom continued by saying the City has done a phenomenal job. The Public Safety retirement system (PSPRS) recently hit all the cities in the state with a substantial invoice resulting from a Court of Appeals ruling that required additional payments to public safety personnel; some cities are having to push those payments out over thirty years, but El Mirage, through responsible management, has already paid its employees. As the League commented earlier in this meeting, the El Mirage Council sets goals through their goal setting process. Annual operating plans are discussed, and capital improvements plans are publicly published. This Council has been very responsible to date, and because of good sound management they were able to write checks rather than push out the payments to the public safety personnel in the amount of \$574,000. If the Fire Department is saying the model they proposed is not working then the City needs to role it back, increase the number of responders available, because the City was closer to permanently staffing two fire engines back then than the City is now. As a manager you want to listen to the advice of your department and your frontline personnel and give them credence. Both the Fire Chief and the Fire Association were asked if they would be satisfied with this model and both stated yes. Until recent changes in the City, this is the first the CM is hearing of an issue with staffing.

CM Isom referenced Mr. Gilliam's discussion on response times in and out of the City and wanted to elaborate. He advised that from here on out Council will be provided with a report that more clearly identifies the response times and this information will also be made public through the City newsletter. In August the City's engine responded 269 times and 94 of those calls were outside of El Mirage. Total responses were 342 incidents, and 109 were outside of El Mirage or approximately 35 percent. If the City were to add another engine it would be picked up by other units under the regional system; the City of El Mirage is only going to have a certain finite number of calls, so you have to exercise caution. The 269 calls divided by 31 days of August equates to about 8.6 calls during a 24 hour period. The City's Fire Chief states that is not an over active station. CM Isom is providing the facts and statistics as they exist.

Mayor Mook commented that 80% of the calls are of a medical nature according to the stats provided and CM Isom confirmed that a majority of the calls are of medical nature over fire related calls.

Mayor Mook further commented that was one of the reasons the new station was located where it is and again CM Isom concurred that deferring to a study, it is right in the heart of the populated area.

CM Isom concluded by commenting on other items that were brought up stating he had responded to the number of calls made to other cities and also responded to the question about a second fire house. He also clarified that the presentation made at the last Council meeting by Finance Director Nilles regarding the cost of additional police personnel did, in fact, include all training costs. His final reference was to comments made earlier regarding Councilor Jones' report pertaining to an Attorney General investigation of both the Mayor and City Manager; CM Isom referred to his earlier comments regarding the "game" and the Associations scare tactics. Mayor Mook stated the investigation is "bogus." CM Isom stated he cannot speak for Councilor Jones nor what the basis was for his statement, but if it is what he believes it to be, he stated it was absolutely ridiculous.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed under the Consent Agenda will be voted on with one motion. If discussion is desired regarding any Consent Agenda Item, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately.

1. Consideration and action to approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held Thursday, September 7, 2017. (City Clerk)
2. Consideration and action to approve the destruction of municipal documents that have reached the end of their retention period as authorized under A.R.S. §41-151.19. (City Clerk)
3. Consideration and action to approve the sale of real property (Parcel 501-26-035C) solicited in accordance with A.R.S. §9-402, §9-241, & §39-204 to the highest and best bidder in the amount of \$5,000.00. (Finance)

Councilor Selby moved to remove consent agenda Item 1 from the consent agenda for further review and defer to the next Council meeting for action; seconded by Councilor Delgado. Motion carried unanimously (6/0).

Councilor Jones moved to approve items 2 and 3 on the consent agenda; seconded by Jack Palladino. Motion carried unanimously (6/0).

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

- A. Consideration and action to augment the El Mirage Fire Department. (Councilors Shapera and Selby)

Councilor Shapera moved to immediately hire two firefighters and transfer funding to the Fire Department from the General Fund; seconded by Councilor Selby.

Mayor Mook inquired that after the presentation just made by the League of Arizona Cities and Towns this evening that you guys are going to do this?

Councilor Shapera stated yes, he feels very comfortable that the fire department needs additional staffing. There are people in the fire department that come and go and he wants to make sure there are enough fire fighters for responses. He stated he doesn't believe there is a hurt anywhere and the budget can afford it through General Fund number ten (10), department 450, account 410. He stated the City can easily do this and augment the Fire Department so there is more staffing; he stated he absolutely feels very comfortable with this action and Councilor Selby stated he concurred.

Motion carried (4/2). Nay votes cast by Mayor Mook and Councilor Palladino.

- B. Consideration and action to approve a Notice of Intent to add fees for Wireless Facilities in Rights-of-Ways not sooner than 60 days from the date of posting the notice pursuant to A.R.S. Section § 9-499.15. (Community Development)

Planning & Zoning Coordinator Jose Macias advised Council that new fees were required for wireless facilities pursuant to recent State law revisions and this is the required 60-day notice to the public that new fees were intended to be considered for updating the City's approved fee schedule.

Councilor Shapera asked whether requests from wireless facilities would still come before Planning & Zoning and Mr. Macias responded yes, that requirement would still be necessary.

Councilor Jones moved to approve a Notice of Intent to add fees for Wireless Facilities in rights-of-Ways not sooner than 60 days from the date of posting the notice pursuant to A.R.S. Section § 9-99.15; seconded by Councilor Palladino. Motion carried unanimously (6/0).

VII. CITY MANAGER SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

The City Council may not act upon any matter in the City Manager's summary but may have general comment or questions.

1. New Employees

Fire Chief Jim Wise introduced the new Building Official, Joe Hernandez who comes to El Mirage from Glendale. He graduated from ASU in 2001 with a Bachelors Degree in Management and a minor in Management Information Systems. He has a Latino last name but did not learn Spanish growing up; he eventually became bi-lingual working in the construction field for the past 15 years. He has worked on the Municipal Review and Administrative Society for 10 years. He has most of the International Code Council Plan Review certifications and most recently obtained his Certified Building Official

certification. Joe is married, has children, dogs, birds and cats, loves tinkering with projects and enjoys various outdoor activities. Joe addressed Council and said he was very pleased to be with the City and looks forward to helping out in any way he can.

VIII. MAYOR'S COMMENTS and COUNCIL SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

The Mayor and City Council may not discuss or act upon any matter in the summary unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

Councilor Shapera commented that the road construction is coming along nicely.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.




Lana Mook, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sharon Antes, City Clerk

I hereby certify the aforementioned minutes are a true and accurate record of the Regular El Mirage City Council Meeting held on September 19, 2017 and a quorum was present.



Sharon Antes, City Clerk