

**CITY OF BUCKEYE
COUNCIL WORKSHOP
OCTOBER 21, 2014
MINUTES**

**City Council Chambers
530 E. Monroe Ave.
Buckeye, AZ 85326
3:15 p.m.**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor Meck called the meeting to order at 3:19 p.m.

Members Present: Councilmember Strauss, Councilmember Hess, Councilmember McAchran, Councilmember Heustis, Vice Mayor Orsborn, and Mayor Meck.

Members Absent: Councilmember Garza.

Departments Present: City Manager Stephen Cleveland, Assistant City Manager Roger Klingler, City Attorney Scott Ruby, City Clerk Lucinda Aja, Deputy City Clerk Summer Stewart, Assistant to Council Carol Conley, Fire Chief Bob Costello, Finance Director Larry Price, Economic Development Director Len Becker, Community Services Director Cheryl Sedig, Public Works Director Scott Lowe, Human Resources Director Nancy Love, Water Resources Director Dave Nigh, Development Services Director George Flores, Government Relations Manager George Diaz, Information Technology Director Greg Platacz, Planning Manager Terri Hogan, and Marketing and Communications Manager Jennifer Rogers.

**2. Economic Development Department Update Part 2 (Continued from 10/07/2014)
Staff Liaison: Len Becker, Economic Development Director
District No. All**

Mr. Becker presented an update of the Economic Development Department. The role and objectives of the department were presented as well as an overview of previous workshop discussions related to economic development. The Action Agenda is provided and reviewed. Retail development is important for the financial health of the community and provides the opportunity to market the City as a gateway community in and out of Phoenix. The Grow Buckeye Entrepreneurial Program was discussed. Site selection decision factors were listed and include highway accessibility, occupancy and construction costs, availability of skilled labor and low union profile. State and local incentives were addressed and include an expedited permit approval process, permit fee reimbursement and infrastructure reimbursement. The economic development vision and CIP Plan map was displayed. Prospect activity was summarized and new businesses were listed. Issues and opportunities include budgetary constraints, educational opportunities, infrastructure, labor force and transportation. Strategies involve continued infrastructure improvement, more business prospects, more retail offerings and sales tax revenues, and utilizing marketing materials. A timeline of development in the Verrado community was discussed. Council expressed an interest in receiving regular updates on status of projects. General discussion was held related to competitor communities and incentives provided by those communities. Limits for development in the Tartesso community were addressed. The progress of the construction of the Tom Jones Ford dealership was provided.

3. Discussion of Airport Development and Access Road Construction Including Future Buckeye Air Fair Layout

Staff Liaison: John McMahon, Airport Coordinator

District No. All

Mr. McMahon presented an overview of airport development and provided a history of the Buckeye Airport. The annual Buckeye Air Fair event was discussed and the new logo was presented. The Air Fair event will include a museum, car show, sci-tech festival, air craft displays and rides, and public safety presentations. The site of the proposed access road was displayed; the requested access road consolidates the show into one area, eliminates the need for two stages, two vendor areas and buses, as well as continues the overall development of the airport. The access road will support future events including the Buckeye Marathon, Super Bowl traffic and commercial parcel access. Development needs at the airport include water infrastructure and additional hangars; additional hangars will create immediate revenue; additional operations at the airport will merit increased FAA grant amounts. The hangars currently at the airport are filled with a waiting list for this facility and surrounding airports. The cost for construction of additional hangars is discussed. Prospective businesses will be attracted to the Buckeye Airport due to its close proximity to I-10 and MC85 and the airport is located outside of the 30 mile ring from Sky Harbor Airport. The cost of hangar rental was reviewed. Existing water pressure and water infrastructure was discussed and private investment opportunities addressed.

4. Discussion Regarding the Possibility of Conducting a Special Census in the City of Buckeye

Staff Liaison: George Diaz, Government Relations

District No. All

Mr. Diaz presented an overview of the request to conduct a special census. The City of Buckeye receives approximately 15.6 million in revenue from State Shared Revenue (SSR); SSR funds are distributed based on population. An estimate of Buckeye's current population is addressed. Information supporting increased population estimates includes a rise in residential sanitation accounts. If estimates are accurate, the City can expect SSR funds to increase by 1.2 million per year, beginning July, 2016. The cost to conduct a special census was discussed; the City's population would only need to have increased by less than 2% in order to receive a full return on the investment to conduct the special census. SSR safeguards are summarized. General discussion was held regarding cost of conducting the special census and potential increased SSR funds. The source of the funds requested to conduct the special census were reviewed and discussed. Mr. Diaz recommended setting the terms for a contract to conduct a special census, expending 1.4 million from contingency funds, collaborating with other municipalities, and advertising and promoting special census participation by Buckeye residents.

5. Discussion of the 2015 Government Relations Program to Include the 2015 Legislative Goals, 2015 Legislative Agenda, and 2015 Federal Program

Staff Liaison: George Diaz, Government Relations

District No. All

Mr. Diaz provided a summary of the 2015 Government Relations Program and discussed the details of the program. The purpose of implementing this program includes establishing and developing goals and priorities, providing an understanding of our legislative program and providing direction to fulfill goals. The 2015 legislative agenda would focus on preserving local control, protecting State Shared Revenues, maintaining construction sales tax, restoring highway user revenue fund, defending local transaction privilege tax, authorizing the physical transfer of water for the purposes of water recharge, and authorizing the reimbursement for value added investment into state lands. Dr. Kristi Sandvik (Buckeye Elementary School District) addressed the importance of making education a priority in Buckeye communities. Early education and funding full day kindergarten was discussed as well as ensuring funds are properly distributed to schools and supporting the standards of Common Core. Council is encouraged to discuss the value of education with residents. Mr. Charles Waters, a retired businessman, discussed the significance of an educated work force. Mr. Diaz presented the strategy for accomplishing goals which include pre-session and mid-session delegation meetings, coordination with the league of cities and towns, and regular reporting during Council meetings. The importance of continuing and consistent communication is addressed. The proposed Federal Government Relations Program will be a pilot program utilizing contract services to pursue federal resources.

6. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember McAchran and seconded by Vice Mayor Orsborn to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Jackie A. Meck, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lucinda J. Aja, City Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Council Workshop held on the 21st day of October, 2014. I further certify that a quorum was present.

Lucinda J. Aja, City Clerk