

**CITY OF BUCKEYE
COUNCIL WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 18, 2014**

MINUTES

**City Council Chambers
530 E. Monroe Ave.
Buckeye, AZ 85326
4:30 p.m.**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor Meck called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Members Present: Councilmember Strauss (arrived at 4:55 p.m.), Councilmember Hess (arrived 4:35 p.m.), Councilmember McAchran, Councilmember Heustis, Vice Mayor Orsborn, and Mayor Meck.

Members Absent: Councilmember Garza.

Departments Present: City Manager Stephen Cleveland, City Attorney Scott Ruby, City Clerk Lucinda Aja, Deputy City Clerk Deborah Harrell, Assistant to Council Carol Conley, Public Works Director Scott Lowe, Finance Director Larry Price.

2. City of Buckeye Partnership with Arizona State University- Design School

Staff Liaison: Adam Copeland, Senior Planner

District No. All

Mr. Copeland presented Council an overview of the Partnership with Arizona State University including the Design School-Graduate Design Studio; Curriculum; and, Continued Partnership Opportunities. Mayor Meck attended the Mayors Conference; contacts were made with many opportunities for the City of Buckeye. The City has a set topographical environment that has many unique challenges and opportunities which attracted Arizona State University to Buckeye. There are 12 Master Degree students in architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, and planners. Mr. Copeland reviewed the 15 week curriculum which will be entirely in Buckeye; the students will be looking at areas of some diversity and mapping areas with some challenges. The students will provide a mid-review in March with a final presentation to Council in May. Councilmember Heustis confirmed we have opportunities to make changes with a transect zoning approach. Councilmember McAchran is pleased with the opportunity to engage the University. Vice Mayor Orsborn confirmed the zoning provides us the ability to create a variation of products instead of a standard product and would like to see this as a continued curriculum; long-term net-working possibility. Councilmember Strauss commented the importance of current trends and creativity.

3. Presentation on El Rio and Gila River Related Projects

Staff Liaison: Robert Wisener, Conservation and Project Manager

Adam Copeland, Senior Planner

District No. All

Mr. Wisener presented Council an overview including the Gila River background, projects and costs, and project schedules. The Gila River is 649 miles long and has had an 86% decrease; the river flows 30 miles in Buckeye with canal diversions and inflows from wastewater treatment plants. The El Rio Watercourse Master Plan, the El Rio Implementation and Management Plan, and the Area Drainage Master Plan are joint projects; the City of Buckeye projects include the Gila River Restoration Program and Town Lake Feasibility Studies. Mr. Copeland presented Council Planning and Design

Standards. A Request for Qualifications for the Gila River Restoration Program was issued in November, 2013 and should be ready for Council approval in April, 2014. Mr. Copeland provided site pictures with a snapshot of Gila River properties and the vegetative communities in the Gila River and discussed the Town Lake Feasibility Study, the Buckeye Area Drainage Maser Plan and the Watson Drainage System Pre-Design. Councilmember Heustis confirmed the cost for the Gila River Restoration Program is not from impact fees. Vice Mayor Orsborn reported a great start and appreciates the partnering with existing owners; it's important that existing land owners have a stake in the Program. Councilmember Hess confirmed that staff has taken advantage of previous studies and research that may already be complete; however, some data may require updates. Councilmember McAchran suggested we take advantage of what we already have and use the existing money available to get started. Mayor Meck confirmed great value in coordinating together to take full advantage of available money and to reduce redundancies.

4. Adjournment

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Orsborn and seconded by Councilmember Hess 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 18th day of February, 2014. I further certify that a quorum was present.

Lucinda J. Aja, City Clerk