

**CITY OF BUCKEYE  
COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
MAY 13, 2014  
MINUTES**

**Council Chambers  
530 E. Monroe Ave.  
Buckeye, AZ 85326  
3:30 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Mayor Meck called the meeting to order at 3:30 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, City Attorney Scott Ruby, City Clerk Lucinda Aja, Assistant to Council Carol Conley, Economic Development Manager Len Becker, Chief of Police Larry Hall, Fire Chief Bob Costello, Human Resources Director Nancy Love, Planning Manager Terri Hogan, Public Works Director Scott Lowe, Community Services Director Cheryl Sedig, Library Manager Jana White, Finance Director Larry Price and City Engineer Scott Zipprich.

**2. Continued Discussion of Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget  
Staff Liaison: Larry Price, Finance Director  
District No. N/A**

Mr. Price opened the discussion and provided an overview to Council of the proposed fiscal year 2014-2015 budget.

Discussion was held regarding the relocation of Fire and Police Administration to Sundance Crossings and the estimated 2 million in costs for the relocation. Funds for the relocation may come from the following sources: undesignated impact fee balances; continuing a month to month lease as opposed to paying \$350,000 to relocate the Pizza Factory at Sundance Crossings; utilizing excess funds.

A list of general fund financed projects is provided. Mr. Price informed Council approximately \$500,000 per year is required to fund/finance the impact fee required match and options for funding sources were addressed.

City Manager Stephen Cleveland provided information related to the Gila River Implementation Program and potential grant money or private money the program may generate. Kevin Kugler (Baker RVS/Stantec Consulting Services) presented the Specific Area Plan, which costs \$175,000, provides the City tools to establish land use density and intensities, zoning, acquire the right of way for SR30 corridor, and promote corridor construction and surrounding development. Pat Ellison (Stantec Consulting Services) presented areas in the flood plain that will be removed by the proposed levee alignment, benefiting future development. Proliferation of salt cedar restricts flow and builds up water surface elevation. Mr. Kugler stated that 7,000 acres of land are not developable today; the SR30 plan gives the opportunity to define an alignment that makes sense for the City and helps to bring the Buckeye Lake notion to life as well as incentivizing developers. Mr. Cleveland clarified that a lake proposal will be provided for Council consideration and stated that the plan supports transit.

The waterlogged areas and recharge fees are not impacted by the plan. The Ecosystem Restoration Project will prepare the application to submit to the State of Arizona for Capital Funding to remove and replace Salt Cedars and reduce flood hazards. The Sand & Gravel Reclamation Operation project will establish Council Policy to secure Operators and Landowner cooperation and establish annual funding mechanism for Gila River Programs. Discussion was held with regard to delaying the projects. Mr. Ellison informed Council the levee cost is approximately 2 million per linear mile; 60 million total. The cost to the City will depend on relationships with other contributors including ADOT and CIP. The City of Avondale has taken similar measures along the Agua Fria River and the City of Tempe with the Tempe Town Lake; these projects began with the community first seeking an analysis and potential impact the plan has on the City. Roland Wass (WassGerke & Associates, Inc.) presented statements related to the State's motivation to remove salt cedar due to its use of water and the grant funding opportunities available. Mr. Wass informed Council that Buckeye is in a unique geographical area that provides an opportunity to turn the City into a "destination". Discussion was held regarding the benefit of spending money for projects that are currently private property. Mr. Cleveland stated the property in question is within the City's planning area with the expectation of annexation; the plans/projects may be separately approved and are not research projects but written policies that will be provided to Council for action. The plans give the City an opportunity to define its community based on need as opposed to developer need. Jay Hicks (Logan Simpson Designs) presented a drawing demonstrating the make-up and assortment of ownership for a specific zone that is planned to be utilized for lakes along the Gila River; a drawing of the potential lakes was provided and discussion of the plans was held.

Mr. Price informed Council the June 3, 2014 tentative budget will be before Council and will include the relocation of Police and Fire Administration.

Discussion was held regarding the number of days per week the Sundance Crossings Library will be open. Community Services Director Cheryl Sedig stated surveys will take place and feedback will be provided regarding specific days of the week residents prefer the Library to be open. Ms. Sedig provided information related to staffing needs for the Library.

Health Insurance Premium savings and use of those savings was discussed.

### **3. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Councilmember Hess and seconded by Councilmember Heustis to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

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Jackie A. Meck, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Lucinda J. Aja, City Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Special Council Meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014. I further certify that a quorum was present.

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Lucinda J. Aja, City Clerk

*Council Workshop Minutes May 13, 2014*