

**CITY OF BUCKEYE
COUNCIL WORKSHOP
JANUARY 6, 2015
MINUTES**

**City 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 3:35 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Councilmember Garza and Councilmember Strauss.

Departments Present: City Manager Stephen Cleveland, City Attorney Scott Ruby, City Clerk Lucinda Aja, Deputy City Clerk Summer Stewart, Assistant to Council Carol Conley, Public Works Director Scott Lowe, Economic Development Director Len Becker, Community Services Director Cheryl Sedig, and Government Relations Manager George Diaz.

2. Discussion of Special Census

**Staff Liaison: George Diaz, Government Relations Manager
District No. All**

Mr. Diaz presented an overview of the status of the Special Census authorized by Council on October 21, 2014. The Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Census Bureau has been signed and returned with payment. There is a potential overestimate of costs that will be returned to the City once confirmed. Population estimates from Maricopa Association of Governments indicate a population of approximately 58,000; a potential increase of 10,000 residents from the last census conducted in 2010. The Special Census is expected to begin in September or October of 2015 and the City expects to take advantage of recruiting and staff used for a Census Test scheduled to take place prior to September.

3. Discussion of Economic Development Catalyst Program Funding Request Presentations for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

**Staff Liaison: Len Becker, Economic Development Director
District No. All**

Mr. Becker provided an overview of the Economic Development Catalyst Program. The purpose and mission of the program is to promote Economic Development and encourage capital investments and improvements leading to increased economic vitality and health in the City. All requests are intended to promote community and enhance neighborhoods. A summary of the program was reviewed; applicants may be awarded up to \$25,000 for an existing business within the City. Requests over \$10,000 require a minimum 25% match by the applicant. \$100,000 has been allocated for the program for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. Twelve applications were received and seven have been recommended for approval at the January 6, 2015 Regular Council Meeting. The status of the remaining projects not recommended for approval was addressed; those applicants may re-apply in the future. Councilmember McAchran declared a conflict of interest and recused himself from the discussion. A table displaying the amounts requested by each applicant and the required match was provided along with a map denoting each project location.

Applicants Steve Ganley and Phil Ganley with the Buckeye Funeral Home were introduced and a project narrative was described; improvements include repairing and replacing old doors, windows and framing. \$18,750 has been requested with a \$6,948 match, for a total project amount of \$25,698. Pictures of the areas needing improvement were provided. The building is a historic building located at 104 East Baseline; construction will not affect the historical nature of the building. Mr. Steve Ganley provided clarification regarding the bid process utilized and their ability to pay their proportionate share of costs.

Mr. Becker stated the City will reimburse applicants once approved projects are completed. Several local contractors will be used for requested projects promoting jobs in the City and helping to grow Buckeye.

Applicant Sharon Torres with Buckeye Valley News located at 122 South 4th Street was introduced. She has requested funds to remove the existing door and install a new commercial door, with a total requested amount of \$2,927.28. Ms. Torres provided information regarding her request and discussed the increased level of security with the new door and door frame improvements. Mr. Becker provided information related to requests for murals by Ms. Torres and other applicants; murals have not been recommended at this time.

Micaela Meraz, owner of Carnerceria Y Taqueria Durango located at 502, 504 and 506 East Monroe, has requested funds in the amount of \$25,000 and is proposing a renovation to the entire facade of the building. The applicant will be investing approximately \$70,000 for building renovations resulting in three additional vendor suites. Laura Serbin, on behalf of the applicant, provided information related to the improvements, which include an updated facade, the addition of a sitting wall, and new landscaping. The owner of the property will maintain the landscape. Internal improvements will ensure the building is in code compliance, allowing for rentable space.

Applicant Richard Wennberg with Hometown True Value Hardware located at 1511 East MC 85 is introduced. Mr. Wennberg has requested funds in the amount of \$9,998 for improvements to the building, including installation of new light fixtures, paint and repair of metal structures, repainting building exterior and "pony" walls, and adding to current landscaping. Mr. Wennberg provided clarification regarding the proposal to provide in-kind labor.

Barbara Amabisca with La Placita Café located at 424 East Monroe is introduced; she has requested \$25,000 for improvements to the public parking lot and outdoor landscaping. Ms. Amabisca will be contributing \$10,200 toward the projects. Charlene Powers provided information related to the request and provided depictions of proposed parking lot construction.

Joe Blanton and Hortencia Blanton with Millstone Café located at 801 East Monroe have requested funds in the amount of \$9,980 to improve existing landscape and to build a sitting wall, creating an outdoor dining experience. Mr. Blanton was available for questions and provided clarification regarding his requests for improvements and stated he will be providing picnic tables for the project. Mr. Blanton expressed his appreciation and gratitude for the opportunity to "dress up" the facade of his restaurant.

Gregorio Montes De Oca with Ranchero's Rodeo located at 416 East Monroe has applied for funds to install outdoor lighting in the amount of \$4,999. Mr. De Oca provided information related to his requested improvements and stated he has owned the business since March, 2014.

Main Street is thanked for their involvement with the projects and the valuable assistance they have provided to the applicants. The applicants are thanked for their participation.

4. Adjournment

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Orsborn and seconded by Councilmember Hess to adjourn the meeting at 4:56 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 6th day of January, 2015. I further certify that a quorum was present.

Lucinda J. Aja, City Clerk