

**CITY OF BUCKEYE
COUNCIL WORKSHOP
MAY 5, 2015
MINUTES**

**City Council Chambers
530 E. Monroe Ave.
Buckeye, AZ 85326
3:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor Meck called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Councilmember Strauss, Councilmember Hess (arrived at 3:05 p.m.), Councilmember McAchran (excused at 4:29 p.m.; returned at 4:31 p.m.), Councilmember Heustis, Vice Mayor Orsborn (excused at 4:02 p.m.; returned at 4:05 p.m.), 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 Christine Grundy, Police Chief Larry Hall, Finance Director Larry Price, Human Resources Director Nancy Love, Public Works Director Scott Lowe, Water Resources Director Dave Nigh, Information Technology Director Greg Platacz, Community Services Director Cheryl Sedig, Economic Development Director Len Becker, Government Relations Manager George Diaz, and Marketing and Communications Manager Jennifer Rogers.

2. Presentation and Discussion of the Proposed 15/16 Fiscal Year Budget

Staff Liaison: Larry Price, Finance Director

District No. All

Mr. Price opened the presentation and provided information related to the Fiscal Year (FY) 15/16 proposed budget. Ms. Sedig provided an overview of the Helzapoppin Rodeo Grounds, an event venue located in the City. The City leases the property for the sole purpose of community events and parking. Events held at the site include a cowboy breakfast, senior pro rodeo, spring and fall demolition derbies, and a three day rock and gem show. Due to flooding damage at the site in 2013, repairs to the concession stand and ticket booth were completed. A site assessment survey for compliance with Title II Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was conducted; deficiencies included lack of compliant parking, signage, restrooms, and pathways. Therefore, accessible parking has been constructed, ADA parking signage installed, accessible routes are under construction, and ADA restrooms will be brought in for events. The site will be ADA compliant prior to the demolition derby event scheduled May 9, 2015. The condition of the bleachers and life safety issues were addressed; recommended improvements include straightening of vertical members, tightening of bolted connections, planks examined and replaced as needed, appropriate guardrails provided and openings between seats and footboards closed off. Planks and bolts will receive ongoing maintenance; wire mesh is being placed at the openings between seats and footboards and will be completed prior to May 9, 2015. Staff requested approximately \$157,000 for repairs to the restrooms; after further research, it was determined that repairs to the restroom can be completed for less than \$100,000. Completion of the proposed repairs would result in less money spent on portable restroom rentals for events. Ms. Sedig stated the City partners with the Main Street Coalition on events. Mr. Ruby clarified the importance of taking into consideration recommendations for improvements to the facility which will result in significant minimized risk. Mr. Ron Noble (Main Street Coalition) stated

his concerns related to increased trash being placed in the bleachers with the application of the wire mesh. Ms. Sedig stated the City is planning and preparing for the Buckeye Days Event to be held at the rodeo grounds in 2016. Mr. Ruby provided information related to reports provided to the City and clarified the importance of complying with recommendations for repairs and documenting repairs made. Ms. Sedig clarified original amount requested for improvements to the rodeo grounds has been reduced and will be included in the proposed budget. Mr. Price provided an overview of Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) and Public Safety Retirement Systems (PSPRS) for police and fire agencies. Retirement system employee and City contribution rates were listed and discussed; staff recommends paying a higher rate option for PSPRS, which is included in the proposed budget at an additional cost of \$210,000. The higher rate will reduce the unfunded liability. ASRS contribution rates are reduced from FY 14/15 rates. Based on assets and investments, contribution rates may vary annually. A review of amendments to the proposed general fund budget were provided and the primary property tax levy reviewed. The draft budget includes the addition of sales tax revenue from Tom Jones Ford, the police substation, and wage adjustments in the amount of \$17,264. Funds previously allocated for a Cost of Living Adjustment, one-time bonus, and the Alarcon/Kino project have been placed in the general fund contingencies fund. Capital expenditures equal 7.4 million dollars; projects are listed and include census count, general plan update, Jones Ford, Police substation, and equipment requests. General fund transfers were listed and reviewed. Mr. Price clarified that based on the current classification plan, there are fifteen requested employee reclassifications; of the fifteen, four employees current wage is less than step one of the pay structure they will be reclassified to, resulting in an additional \$17,264 in personnel services. Councilmember Heustis discussed the importance of adjusting salaries, but ensuring employees understand that, moving forward, pay raises may not be awarded every year. Ms. Love clarified police officers and fire department personnel with no experience are hired at step one of the pay scale. Salary restoration was discussed along with the potential pay structure rebuild; information is currently being compiled and will be provided for Council review. Proposed wage adjustments will be discussed at a later date and will be replaced in the budget based on Council direction. Chief Hall provided information regarding the Police substation project which will provide more room for police personnel and is expected to reduce police response times. Mr. Price stated there are currently no funds set aside in the budget for roadway depreciation maintenance. Mr. Lowe discussed the importance of roadway maintenance. General discussion was held regarding impact fees. The City's non-utility impact fee obligation of \$500,000 annually has not been included in the FY 15/16 draft budget. Vice Mayor Orsborn discussed the importance of setting funds aside annually for impact fees. Further discussion was held regarding the market analysis and the possibility of delaying action related to the Memorandum of Understanding with the United Buckeye Firefighters Association. Mr. Price clarified the tentative budget will be scheduled for Council approval on June 2, 2015 and discussed the timeline of events for adoption of the final budget.

3. Presentation and Discussion Regarding the City's Red Flag Program
Staff Liaison: Dave Nigh, Water Resources Director
District No. All

Budget discussion having continued; this discussion has been moved to a later date.

4. Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update and Discussion
Staff Liaison: Robert Wisener, Conservation & Project Manager
District No. All

Mr. Wisener presented an overview of the parks and recreation master plan. The City currently has 76.06 acres of developed parks and 8,675 acres of conservation parks. There are 1.34 acres of developed parks and 153.04 acres of conservation parks per 1,000 residents. Buckeye would like to increase the level of service to 4 acres of City-owned parks per 1,000 residents and will need an additional 150 acres based on current population. Funding for new parks may come from cost sharing, impact fees, bonds, special sales or property taxes, and grants. Based on a survey submitted in the community, 83% of respondents are willing to support construction of new parks or facilities. Residential development level of service standards were presented and discussed. There are currently

182 acres of Home Owner Association (HOA) parks. Issues with HOA parks include too many pocket parks, few neighborhood parks, limited amenities and disjointed retention. Buckeye will require a percentage of gross acreage for open space and park space based on lot sizes. Open space and park space were defined and compared; open space includes rivers, washes and drainage, resource areas, hillsides, parks, and tracts with pedestrian circulation system; park space includes active recreation areas, turf-lined areas, and identified trails. Park size requirements and minimum amenities for each park were listed and will be based on number of housing units. Amenities include splash pad, covered playground, picnic facilities, group picnic pavilion, trails, dog park, and amphitheater. Requirements for commercial and industrial development include construction of paths on or adjacent to property to provide connections between residential areas to activity centers and providing amenities for customers and employees. The 2008 Trails Master Plan was presented and updates summarized. Trailhead guidelines will not be amended in the updated master plan. Next steps in the process include funding and implementation strategies. The updated plan will be used to guide decisions, update impact fees, and will be codified into the Development Code. Costs and funding were addressed. An overview of Skyline Park was presented; construction is scheduled to begin in May of 2015 with an expected opening by the end of 2015. General discussion was held regarding updated requirements in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the impact of water rates related to HOA parks.

5. Adjournment

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Orsborn and seconded by Councilmember Hess to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 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 5th day of May, 2015. I further certify that a quorum was present.

Lucinda J. Aja, City Clerk