



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

**City Council Chambers
530 E. Monroe Ave.
Buckeye, AZ 85326
3:45 p.m.**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor Meck called the meeting to order at 3:47 p.m.

Members Present: Councilmember Strauss (excused at 5:34 p.m.), Councilmember Hess (arrived at 4:59 p.m.), Councilmember McAchran (excused at 5:04 p.m.; returned at 5:07 p.m.), Councilmember Heustis, Vice Mayor Orsborn (excused at 5:03 p.m.; returned at 5:05 p.m.), and Mayor Meck.

Members Absent: Councilmember Garza.

Departments Present: City Manager Stephen Cleveland, City Attorney Shiela Schmidt, City Clerk Lucinda Aja, Deputy City Clerk Summer Stewart, Assistant to Council Carol Conley, Public Works Director Scott Lowe, Human Resources Director Nancy Love, Water Resources Director Dave Nigh, Finance Director Larry Price, Economic Development Director Len Becker, Construction and Contracting Manager Chris Williams, and Government Relations Manager George Diaz.

**2. Presentation of Self-Evaluation and American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan
Staff Liaison: Liz Camacho, ADA Coordinator
Scott Lowe, Public Works Director**

District No. All

Ms. Camacho opened the presentation and provided an overview of the ADA. In order to comply with ADA requirements, a self-evaluation was conducted that included an assessment of the City's current facilities, recreational areas and public rights-of-way. A transition plan was then created that includes the areas of ADA non-compliance that were identified in the self-evaluation and provides a schedule of maintenance and upgrades; it is anticipated all modifications will be complete by 2028. Federal regulations mandate the City complete certain administrative requirements, including a self-evaluation, allowing the public to provide input, creation of a transition plan, designating a person responsible, setting forth a grievance procedure, and providing notice to the public. During the self-evaluation process, priorities one through four were identified; each priority was summarized and examples provided. Priority one includes barriers to the approach and entrance of a facility, priority two includes barriers to the access to goods and services, priority three includes barriers to restrooms, and priority four includes barriers to additional access not included in barriers one through three. Ms. Camacho stated there are 33 miles of sidewalks in downtown Buckeye that do not currently meet ADA standards; examples of non-compliance were discussed and include missing curb ramps, obstructions, damage, and discontinuities. Mr. Lowe provided information related to amounts budgeted for improvements listed in

the transition plan from the current year through 2028, with an estimated total cost of \$1.2 million. Priority one improvements are scheduled for 2016 through 2020, priority two improvements are scheduled for 2020 through 2025, and priority three and four improvements are scheduled for 2025 through 2028. General discussion was held regarding the Transition Plan and the importance of complying with ADA standards.

3. Discussion of the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Amendment for the El Rio Implementation and Management Plan

Staff Liaison: Robert Wisener, Conservation and Project Manager

District No. All

Mr. Wisener presented an overview of the IGA Amendment for the El Rio Implementation and Management Plan. A history of the project was provided. Details of the IGA were reviewed and include a \$50,000 contribution from each participating agency for a total \$200,000, the City of Avondale has assumed lead administration and Buckeye has assumed lead coordination. Each chapter of the design guidelines and planning standards were reviewed. Character areas were listed and include high value habitat, scenic rural and open space, Buckeye north bank development, and Buckeye commerce corridor. The El Rio theme established in the watercourse master plan will be built on, including the use of recycled materials, creation of connections, use of local materials, accessibility, building on the El Rio brand, and respecting the setting. Land development and land use design concepts were described; trails and edge treatments were discussed. Landscape guidelines were reviewed and signage guidelines listed. Pilot projects include Avondale Festival Fields, Goodyear Rio Vista Trailhead, and Buckeye 40-acre property. Steps for moving forward consist of continued meetings and public input, final adoption, and then implementation. The consultants, Jeff Engelmann with J2 Engineering and Design, and Felipe Zubia with Matrix Design Group, were introduced and thanked for their involvement.

4. Combined City of Buckeye Economic Development Department and Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC) Updates

Staff Liaison: Len Becker, Economic Development Director

District No. All

Mr. Becker opened the presentation and introduced Chris Petroff, GPEC Senior Vice President of Business Development. Mr. Petroff provided an overview of GPEC; GPEC is supported by Maricopa County, 23 cities and towns, and more than 170 private-sector investors. A fiscal year update was presented and prospects by region discussed; there has been a high volume of prospects from the State of California. A City of Buckeye project review was displayed; 65% of prospects in fiscal year 2016 are looking for existing buildings, 21% are looking for build-to-suit, and 15% have no preference. The growth of the technology industry, manufacturing, distribution, and E-Commerce was discussed. Business attractions in the greater Phoenix region were listed and include availability of skilled labor, highway accessibility, labor costs, corporate tax rate, State and local incentives, and energy availability and costs. Business attractions in the west valley were listed and include shovel-ready sites for build-to-suit opportunities, sites with rail access, and access to skilled workforce. Mr. Becker stated there is a Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) initiative to review educational data and to determine the types of employees that are currently in the workforce; the information will assist with attracting specific types of business. Mr. Petroff provided information related to the trend on revenue return; over the last five fiscal years, there has been \$26 of direct revenue and \$41 of total revenue for every \$1 invested. Current initiatives were listed and reviewed and include road shows, ambassador programs, client meetings, and site tour participation. Mr. Becker presented a brief Economic Development Department update, addressed potential barriers to future development, and reviewed major objectives.

5. Adjournment

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Orsborn and seconded by Councilmember Hess to adjourn the meeting at 5:42 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 October, 2015. I further certify that a quorum was present.

Lucinda J. Aja, City Clerk