



MAYOR AND COUNCIL Study Session Minutes

Approved by Mayor and Council
on November 28, 2023.

Date of Meeting: May 23, 2023

The Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson met in study session remotely through Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, May 23, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Romero at 12:04 p.m.

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

PRESENT: Mayor Regina Romero
Council Member Lane Santa Cruz (Ward 1)
Council Member Cunningham (Ward 2) (arrived at 12:15 p.m.)
Council Member Kevin Dahl (Ward 3)
Council Member Nikki Lee (Ward 4)
Council Member Richard G. Fimbres (Ward 5) (electronic attendance)
Vice Mayor Steve Kozachik (Ward 6)

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Michael J. Ortega, City Manager
Mike Rankin, City Attorney (electronic attendance)
Suzanne Mesich, City Clerk

Mayor Romero announced that Council Member Fimbres, and Michael Rankin, City Attorney would be participating electronically through Microsoft TEAMS.

1. **Executive Session - City of Tucson v. Grant and Alvernon Realty Trust, et al., Pima County Superior Court Case No. C20210877 (Ward 3) SS/MAY23-23-103**

It was moved by Council Member Fimbres, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6 to 0 (Council Member Cunningham absent/ excused), to enter into Executive Session for Item 1 as noticed on the agenda.

RECESS: 12:05 p.m.

RECONVENE: 12:46 p.m.

MAYOR & COUNCIL: All present

STAFF: All present

(Note: Council Member Cunningham arrived at 12:15 p.m.)

The Executive Session was held from 12:05 p.m. to 12:38 p.m.

It was moved by Council Member Santa Cruz, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0, to return to open session.

2. Mayor and Council Direction Regarding Executive Session – City of Tucson v. Grant and Alvernon Realty Trust, et al., Pima County Superior Court Case No. C20210877 (Ward 3) SS/MAY23-23-104

It was moved by Vice Mayor Kozachik, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0, to authorize and direct the City Attorney and City Manager to proceed as discussed in Executive Session and to move towards settlement of this acquisition in the eminent domain case but subject to the conditions as discussed by the Mayor and Council during Executive Session.

11. Discussion of Tucson Police Department Recruitment and Retention Strategies; Use of Retired Officers; Compensation for Reserve Officers (City Wide) SS/MAY23-23-113

(This item was taken out of order.)

Council Member Cunningham started off by saying his office would be resubmitting a memo regarding this item. He would like to have a more specific discussion at the June 6, 2023, Mayor and Council meeting.

Mayor Romero thanked Council Member Cunningham for requesting to move this item so they may have a more in-depth discussion. She also stated the importance of having this discussion and looked forward to it.

(This item was continued to the meeting of June 6, 2023.)

5. Discussion of Tentative Adoption of the Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 23/24 (City Wide) SS/MAY23-23-110

(This item was taken out of order.)

Introductory comments were provided by Michael J. Ortega, City Manager, regarding the focus and previous discussions included in the material presented to them. He also stated the tentative budget is where the cap was established therefore, line items were not being approved. By the tentative adoption of the budget, the Mayor and Council were setting the maximum amount of expenditures for the budget of 2023/2024.

Information was provided by Anna Rosenberry, Chief Financial Officer, Assistant City Manager, on how they moved from the City Manager's recommended budget into what

would be up for adoption later in the evening. She also stated their memorandum included responses to many questions or issues brought up during the May 9, 2023, Study Session meeting.

Ms. Rosenberry continued to go over the budget materials and projections for the Fiscal Year 2024. She also went over what the next steps would be for the adoption the tentative budget on June 6, 2023.

Discussion ensued.

(Note: Council Member Lee departed at 1:12 p.m. and returned at 1:17p.m.)

Mayor Romero stated she was concerned about the LIHTC piece from the memorandum and would like to learn more about the possibility of losing affordable housing units and how it could be reflected in the future and what type of situation it would put the City in.

Discussion ensued.

Ann Chanecka, Deputy Director of Housing and Community Development related her discussions with the Department of Housing and the potential downsides in keeping housing affordable.

Discussion ensued. No formal action was taken.

3. Update from Dr. Cullen from the Pima County Health Department Relating to the Fentanyl and Opioid Crisis (City Wide) SS/MAY23-23-105

(Note: This item was taken out of order and discussed after Item #7)

4. May 2023 Update on Strategic Initiatives Related to Unsheltered Homelessness (City Wide) SS/MAY23-23-106

Introductory comments were made by Mayor Romero.

Information and presentation were provided by Chad Kasmar, Chief of Police, Tucson Police Department and Sarah Launius, Community Safety, Health and Wellness Director. They gave an update related to unsheltered homelessness and drug prevention.

Chief Kasmar talked about how easy it was to purchase drugs throughout the City of Tucson, which translated to the accessibility and affordability and the direct correlation to unsheltered population.

(Note: Council Member Dahl departed at 2:46 p.m. and returned at 2:48 p.m.)

Ms. Launius discussed the continuing effort being made to help connect with folks and the need of services for those who had experienced substance abuse. She also discussed

her collaboration with Dr. Cullen and of best practices and resources Dr. Cullen provided her team to help fill in the gaps. She indicated that her team continued to work closely with Public Safety Communications to divert 911 calls to social service and behavioral health teams. She said to date, 71 calls had been diverted.

Discussion ensued regarding City departments and non-profit organizations coming together to assist in the efforts and need to build trust and look at continuity of care and stickers on fare boxes encouraging donations.

No formal action was taken.

5. Discussion of Tentative Adoption of the Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 23/24 (City Wide) SS/MAY23-23-110 (City Wide)

(Note: This item was taken out of order and discussed after Item #11)

6. Compensation Disputes of Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Compensation Plan (City Wide) SS/MAY23-23-107

Introductory comments were made by Mayor Romero. She started the conversation by saying she enjoyed the public hearing and was not sure how things would go or how employees and labor unions would react to the proposal. She also said she was very proud of everyone who participated in the public hearing. She complimented the Human Resources Director on the work she had done and how it showed at the public hearing.

Comments were also made by Michael J. Ortega, City Manager regarding the steps going forward and reports of what to look forward to. He also stated there were two major concerns brought forth by employees.

Information and presentation were provided by Suzette Yaezenko, Human Resources Director, on an update on the number of disputes received from employees after the mayor's public hearing. She stated that fifty-two formal and three informal disputes were filed. She also fielded and answered questions and informed the Mayor and Council that staff met with about seventy-six individuals overall.

Discussion ensued.

No formal action was taken.

7. Adjust Tucson Code (Chapter XX) Definitions of Summer and Winter for the Purpose of Commercial and Industrial Water Rate Calculations (City Wide and Outside City) SS/MAY23-23-108

Introductory comments were made by Michael Ortega, City Manager.

Information and presentation were provided by John Kmiec, Water Department Director, who fielded and answered questions. He also discussed how a series of options were laid out in detail. He said his recommendation was to adjust the average winter consumption months from the current months of November through April to a winter quarter average, consisting of the months December through February. The adjustment would allow for summer surcharge rates to be in play for nine months of the year as opposed to only six months as they currently were.

Discussion ensued.

It was moved by Council Member Dahl, duly seconded, to move Option 1A and 1B and direct staff to proceed with the rate adoption process, that commences with an official notice of intent and 60-day public outreach and communication period prior to a public hearing and rate adoption.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kmiec answered questions regarding Option 1A and 1B and the process used in making the recommendation to Mayor and Council, public outreach and notice.

(Note: Council Member Santa Cruz departed at 1:41 p.m. and returned at 1:44 p.m.)

Mike Rankin, City Attorney, reiterated the notice of intent would start the process.

Discussion ensued. The motion was carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0.

3. Update from Dr. Cullen from the Pima County Health Department Relating to the Fentanyl and Opioid Crisis (City Wide) SS/MAY23-23-105

(This item was taken out of order.)

Introductory comments were made by Mayor Romero.

Information and presentation were given by Dr. Theresa Cullen, Pima County Health Director regarding the opioid problem not only in Arizona but across the United States. She went over the number of overdose deaths in Pima County in 2022 which were 458. She also mentioned, although there was a decrease in the number of deaths from 2021 to 2022, there was still a significant problem in our community.

Dr. Cullen also discussed the primary prevention would be to create healthy communities and prevent the misuse of substances. Everyone would need to be engaged with medical providers. She also stated the Center for Disease Control (CDC) released new clinical guidelines for healthcare providers which are intended to address pain management.

Dr. Cullen explained how the CDC guidelines addressed the prescription drug monitoring program. She also said physicians with a Drug Enforcement Administration license are reported to be checked each time a controlled substance is issued to patients.

Mayor Romero thanked Dr. Cullen for her time and presentation. She also stated the report presented to the Pima County Board of Supervisors dated March 31st had a lot of information about the demographics and year by year numbers of how opioid, fentanyl, meth and other drug use has affected teenagers and people of color in our community.

Discussion ensued.

Mike Rankin, City Attorney stated the City was drafting an Intergovernmental Agreement with Pima County with respect to sharing funds from opioid settlements. He mentioned to the Mayor and Council that they could make a motion providing direction to staff to draft the resolution.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Kozachik, duly seconded, to direct the City Manager and City Attorney to draft a resolution establishing fentanyl as a public health crisis.

Discussion ensued.

The motion was carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0.

RECESS: 3:15 p.m.

RECONVENE: 3:28 p.m.

MAYOR & COUNCIL: All present

STAFF: All present

(Note: Council Member Santa Cruz departed at 3:29 p.m. and returned at 3:33 p.m.)

8. Update on PFAS and the City of Tucson Water Supply (City Wide and Outside City) SS/MAY23-23-109

Information and presentation were provided by John Kmiec, Water Department Director, who fielded and answered questions.

He spoke about potable waters being free of any PFAS impacts or rigorous testing. He also said several areas of the aquifer in the Tucson Basin need to be avoided to ensure PFAS compounds are not distributed throughout the community. He mentioned they had turned off twenty-two portable wells over the last few years and restricted the use for emergency only to six additional wells.

Mr. Kmiec said the Tucson Airport Remediation project has been rerouted from the portable system to the non-potable status, supplying water now for the reclaim water system and a discharge location on the Santa Cruz River. Additionally, Mr. Kmiec stated Tucson Waters operational guidelines are still very conservative with respect to the

proposed numbers and they are expected to move forward with a final rule-making decision like any safe Drinking Water Act rule. Tucson Water will continue to meet and exceed those regulatory standards that are in place.

Discussion ensued; no formal action was taken.

9. Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Technical Management Committee Recommendation to the RTA Board (City Wide) SS/MAY23-23-111

Introductory comments were made by Michael Ortega, City Manager, regarding the Technical Management Committee and the Regional Management Committee and the recommendations. He spoke about looking back at previous recommendations and projects that were on the corridor list to be moved to the categorical funds. He stated the focus was on how did they accomplish a holistic view of the RTA and help make the transportation system safer and better as a whole.

Mr. Ortega made a recommendation to the Mayor and Council to reduce the funding allocated in the RTA plan for ADOT, and ADOT projects specific to Tucson SR210, which was the Aviation-Barraza quarter.

Sam Credio, Transportation and Mobility Director mentioned they had weekly meetings with the TMC but have not had a PAG Management Committee in some time. He mentioned they did move forward on a proposal that looked at their projects which included the RTA Next Plan.

Discussion ensued; no formal action taken.

12. Discussion regarding Achieving Proliferation of Fiber Internet in the City of Tucson (City Wide) SS/MAY23-23-115

(This item was taken out of order.)

Introductory comments were made by Michael Ortega, City Manager.

Information and presentation were provided by Chris Mazzarella, Information Technologies Director and CIO, who fielded and answered questions. He made comments about how the internet had become a major component of infrastructure just as we would rely on water. He also stated how technology was a major component of how lives were lived today. He outlined some opportunities and goals the City of Tucson IT Department had identified for improvement. He also stated the focus was to provide internet to all businesses and homes.

Mr. Mazzarella continued with his presentation. He concluded and introduced representatives from Pima County IT Department who provided brief comments and thanked the City of Tucson for being in collaboration.

Discussion ensued; no formal action was taken.

10. Discussion regarding the Microgrid Solar Program (City Wide) SS/MAY23-23-112

Information was provided by Vice Mayor Kozachik. He also stated the ask was to get the full support of the Mayor and Council to pass the proposal. He said it would take federal dollars and benefits to have multiple jurisdictions supported to make the proposal attractive.

Discussion ensued.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Kozachik, duly seconded and carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0, to refer the project to the Climate Action Team and CCES for evaluation and bring back their advice to the Mayor and Council in the next 90-days.

11. Discussion of Tucson Police Department Recruitment and Retention Strategies; Use of Retired Officers; Compensation for Reserve Officers (City Wide) SS/MAY23-23-113

(Note: This item was taken out of order and discussed after Item #2.)

12. Discussion regarding Achieving Proliferation of Fiber Internet in the City of Tucson (City Wide) SS/MAY23-23-115

(Note: This item was taken out of order and considered after item #9.)

13. Update on the Progress and Implementation of Tucson Delivers: Better Streets, Safe Streets (Proposition 411) (City Wide) SS/MAY23-23-114

Information and presentation were provided by Sam Credio, Department of Transportation and Mobility (DTM) Director, who fielded and answered questions. He also reported what the two 411 Commissions had been doing over the last several months. He talked about the projects that would be coming up in the different wards and where a full map of the proposed neighborhoods could be found on the DTM's website.

Mr. Credio also spoke about what was needed going forward and how public input was used and prioritized.

Discussion ensued; no formal action was taken.

14. Update on State and National Legislation and Regional Committees (City Wide) SS/MAY23-23-116

Information was provided by Andrew Greenhill, Intergovernmental Relations Manager, who fielded and answered questions. He reminded the Mayor and Council of answers he provided to questions received from Council Member Fimbres and provided an update on bills dealing with Civil Rights issues and rental tax collections of cities and towns.

Discussion ensued no formal action was taken.

15. Mayor and Council Discussion of Regular Agenda (City Wide) SS/MAY23-23-118

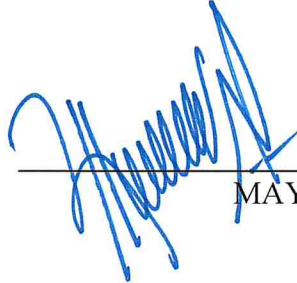
No items were discussed.

16. Mayor and Council Discussion of Future Agendas (City Wide) MAY23-23-117

No items were identified for future agendas.

17. ADJOURNMENT – 5:44 p.m.

AUDIO RECORDING FOR THIS MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON-LINE AT <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/gov/meeting-schedules-and-agendas> FOR TEN YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THIS MEETING.



MAYOR

ATTEST:



CITY CLERK

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

I, the undersigned, have read the foregoing transcript of the study session meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson, Arizona, held on the 23rd day of May 2023, and do hereby certify that it is an accurate transcription.



DEPUTY CITY CLERK

SM:yl