

DRAFT

WORK SESSION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF EL MIRAGE
EL MIRAGE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
10000 N. EL MIRAGE ROAD
5:00 PM -TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023

Minutes

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Alexis Hermosillo; Vice Mayor David Shapera; Councilmember Roy Delgado;
Councilmember Monica Dorcey; Councilmember Anita Norton; Councilmember Bob Jones;
Councilmember Donna Winston

2. CALL TO ORDER - MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:00 PM

3. WORK SESSION PRESENTATION

1. Presentation of results of Utility Rate Study performed. (Administration)

Fiscal Services Administrator Macy Walker introduced Kevin Burnett with Willdan Financial Consulting. Mr. Burnett provided a brief presentation on the water, sewer and sanitation rate study. Mr. Burnett detailed the different options available provide funding for current and future expenses and explained how to meet the legal obligations associated with outstanding debt.

Vice Mayor Shapera asked how recycling is now an option if the program was stopped previously due to a lack of providers able to dispose of the recycling and Public Works Director Nick Russo stated the provider is now available to pick up some items for recycling. **Vice Mayor Shapera** asked how Tolleson is able to maintain a low fee for their sanitation program and Mr. Russo stated they have a long-standing contract with their provider which keeps the costs low. **Councilmember Norton** asked if \$23 million will be enough for the water treatment plant and Mr. Russo stated it is possible that the expansion will not be needed, and the information was included as one of a few options that may be necessary. **Councilmember Norton** asked how long it took for the plant to reach the threshold capacity and Mr. Russo explained the increases in flow at the plant related to the growth of the city and the time frames involved. **Councilmember Winston** asked how people who have pools will be affected by the rate increase and Mr. Russo stated the study has taken into account all types of current usages in recent years including residents with pools. **Councilmember Norton** asked if residents opt-in to the recycling program will they still be able to use the two barrels currently being used now and Mr. Russo stated they could. **Mayor Hermosillo** asked how the provider would know who has opted-in to the recycling program and Mr. Russo stated the recycle barrel would have a different colored lid. **Councilmember Delgado** asked if it would be possible to funnel some sewage to EPCOR in order to save money and Mr. Russo stated there is always a possibility for discussions with EPCOR. Mr. Russo stated there will be a study initiated next fiscal year regarding cost saving opportunities at the water treatment plant. **Councilmember Dorcey** stated it will be necessary to work with the community to explain the increases in rates. **Councilmember Jones** asked if the current credit for recycling will be discontinued and Mr.

Russo stated yes. **Vice Mayor Shapera** asked when the current bonds for the water treatment center will be paid off and Assistant City Manager Robert Nilles explained the current sewer debt and where it stands currently. **Councilmember Dorcey** asked if the increases proposed would need to be approved by voters and Mr. Nilles stated it is not necessary to put it to the voters to determine the increase if that is the decision made by Council. **Councilmember Dorcey** asked how many residents would be interested in the opt-in program and Mr. Russo stated a waiting list could be created to determine participation by residents. **Councilmember Delgado** asked if EPCOR would have the ability to recharge the aquifer and Mr. Russo stated yes.

City Manager Dyches asked for direction on for the water rates and **Mayor Hermosillo** called for a roll-call vote on the options presented in the study:

- Vice Mayor Shapera** - Option 2
- Councilmember Delgado** - Option 2
- Councilmember Jones** - Option 2
- Councilmember Norton** - Option 2
- Councilmember Winston** - Option 2
- Mayor Hermosillo** - Option 2

City Manager Dyches asked for direction on the recycling options and **Mayor Hermosillo** called for a roll-call vote:

- Vice Mayor Shapera** - Option 3
- Councilmember Delgado** - Option 3
- Councilmember Jones** - Option 3
- Councilmember Norton** - Option 3
- Councilmember Winston** - Option 3
- Mayor Hermosillo** - Option 3

4. **ADJOURNMENT - MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:33 PM**

Alexis A. Hermosillo, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sharon Antes, City Clerk

I hereby certify the aforementioned minutes are a true and accurate record of the El Mirage City Council Work Session held on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, and a quorum was present.



Sharon Antes, City Clerk