

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 17, 2024

Minutes

1. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Councilmember Roy Delgado (Excused)

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

3. WORK SESSION PRESENTATION

1. Council work session to discuss the current and future status of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and housing assistance opportunities. (Administration)

City Manager Crystal Dyches introduced Assistant City Manager Robert Nilles. Mr. Nilles provided information to aid Council in providing direction on how to spend the remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Mr. Nilles explained the Newtown program which would build and renovate permanently affordable houses for lower-income families. This program would cost the City one million dollars and would fund the purchase and rehabilitation of five to seven homes. **Vice Mayor Shapera** asked if the homeowners would pay property taxes and Mr. Nilles stated yes. **Vice Mayor Shapera** asked if the homes could be quickclaim deeded and Mr. Nilles stated no. General discussion regarding the benefits, eligibility requirements and income levels continued.

Mr. Nilles then provided information on the Housing Authority of Maricopa County and the benefits this program would involve. This program would renovate the Flora Statler Apartments at 14102 N. 1st Avenue from 46 units to 100 units. Mr. Nilles stated this program would cost the City 500K. **Councilmember Norton** stated this program is needed in the City. **Councilmember Dorcey** stated this is a fantastic opportunity for a minimal investment. **Councilmember Jones** stated this is a good opportunity.

Mr. Nilles further explained the options of each program and requested direction from the Council. **Vice Mayor Shapera** stated he prefers the housing development and does not support Newtown. **Councilmember Norton** asked if the Newtown program was not utilized, could the monies be spent elsewhere and Mr. Nilles responded yes. **Councilmember Winston** asked if another program showed interest in El Mirage, could the City move forward with them and Mr. Nilles stated staff has already reached out to other programs and have not had a response. **Vice Mayor Shapera** stated staff should move forward with the Flora Statler program and use the remaining monies for other uses. **Councilmember Dorcey** stated these monies were set aside previously for the housing problem and the City should be taking advantage of both housing opportunities to fulfill Council's commitment to provide needed housing for El Mirage residents.

Councilmember Jones stated he agreed with Councilmember Dorcey. **Councilmember Norton** stated she is in favor of both programs.

Mayor Hermosillo asked for a vote on which programs staff should move forward on:

Vice Mayor Shapera: Both

Councilmember Dorcey: Both

Councilmember Jones: Both

Councilmember Norton: Both

Councilmember Winston: Both

Mayor Hermosillo: Both

4. **ADJOURNMENT - MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:56 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 17, 2024, and a quorum was present.



Sharon Antes, City Clerk