

DRAFT

**WORK SESSION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF EL MIRAGE
EL MIRAGE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
10000 N. EL MIRAGE ROAD
4:00 PM -WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

Minutes

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Alexis Hermosillo; Vice Mayor Jacque Parsons; Councilmember Monica Dorcey; Councilmember Ryan Eldridge; Councilmember Scotty Gentry; Councilmember Anita Norton

Absent: Councilmember Donna Winston

2. CALL TO ORDER

3. WORK SESSION PRESENTATION

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

Macy Walker, Budget and Program Manager, Nick Russo, Public Works Director and Kevin Burnett, Willdan Financial Consulting presented an overview of the Utility Rate Study. Information included: recycling, study findings, comparisons and Old Town Surprise Water Recharge Fee.

Recycling discussion included: the history of the recycling program, survey results, comparison of rates with other cities and current program options. Council directed staff to continue with Option 1 – keep the opt-in program open until 1000 households sign up and continue to promote the program through quarterly updates and media campaign.

Sewer discussion included: revenue recommendations, rate structure, comparison of rates with other cities. Council directed staff to move forward with a flat rate billing structure and to defer the rate increase to FY2026-27.

Water (Debt) discussion included: debt versus cash, explanation of percentage increases, proposed revenue increases (Cash), comparison of rates with other cities. Council directed staff to move forward with Water (Debt) rate increases for FY2025-27 and revisit future increases in the next couple of years.

Recharge Fee discussion included: current water main capacity serving Old Town Surprise, allocating the cost of upsizing the water main to new development not existing customers, and securing water at today's rates. Council directed staff to move forward with the oversizing fee.

- 2. Address outstanding questions on the City Council's strategic priorities and on capital projects identified during the February 3, 2025, CIP and Strategic Plan work session. (Administration)

Jorge Gastelum, Development Services Director, presented on the Capital Improvement Program - 121st Avenue Roadway Improvements. Information included full reconstruction versus Cape Seal option, costs and lifespan, "Paving Unpaved Roads" program grant funding, traffic volume and Ramirez Road Widening connector from El Mirage Road to 121st.

Discussion included: concern about heavy equipment use on the roadway, no additional benefit to residents, alternate use for the grant dollars, possible loss of the grant, less expensive options, eliminating the curb and gutter option.

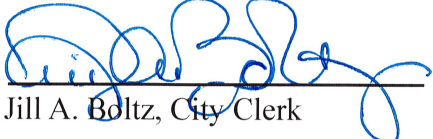
- 4. **ADJOURNMENT - meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.**

Alexis A. Hermosillo, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jill A. Boltz, 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, February 19, 2025, and a quorum was present.



Jill A. Boltz, City Clerk