

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**CITY OF GLENDALE  
CITIZEN BOND ELECTION COMMITTEE  
CITY HALL  
4<sup>th</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
5850 W. GLENDALE AVE.  
GLENDALE, ARIZONA 85301  
APRIL 18, 2023  
5:30 p.m.**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted.

Members Present: Lisa Baker, Committee Chair  
Jim Brodnax, Committee Member  
Connie Kiser, Committee Member  
Sam McConnell, Committee Member (arrived during agenda item #8)  
Michael Socaciu, Committee Member

Members Absent: Alicia Rubio, Committee Vice Chair  
Helena Johnson-Bodine, Committee Member

Other Attendees: Vicki Rios, Assistant City Manager  
Levi Gibson, Director, Budget and Finance  
Jamsheed Mehta, Assistant City Manager  
Ryan Lee, Intergovernmental Programs Director  
Tom Carlson, RBC Capital Markets  
William DeHaan, Greenberg Traurig

3. Citizen Comments

None.

4. Administer Oath of Office

Presented by: Levi Gibson, Director, Budget and Finance

Mr. Gibson administered the Oath of Office to Committee Member Kiser and Committee Member Socaciu.

5. Approval of August 30, 2022 Minutes

**A motion was made by Committee Member Michael Socaciu, second by Committee Chair Lisa Baker, to approve the Citizen Bond Election Committee August 30, 2022 meeting minutes as written.**

**AYE: Committee Chair Lisa Baker  
Committee Member Jim Brodnax  
Committee Member Connie Kiser  
Committee Member Michael Socaciu**

**Other: Committee Vice Chair Alicia Rubio (ABSENT)  
Committee Member Helena Johnson-Bodine (ABSENT)  
Committee Member Sam McConnell (ABSENT)**

6. Chair and Vice Chair Recommendations for 2023

Mr. Gibson announced that recommendations to Council were needed for Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.

**A motion was made by Committee Member Connie Kiser, second by Committee Member Michael Socaciu, to recommend Committee Member Lisa Baker as Chair and Committee Member Michael Socaciu as Vice Chair of the Citizen Bond Election Committee.**

**AYE: Committee Chair Lisa Baker  
Committee Member Jim Brodnax  
Committee Member Connie Kiser  
Committee Member Michael Socaciu**  
**Other: Committee Vice Chair Alicia Rubio (ABSENT)  
Committee Member Helena Johnson-Bodine (ABSENT)  
Committee Member Sam McConnell, (ABSENT)**

7. Introduction of Committee Members  
Presented by: Vicki Rios, Assistant City Manager

Introductions were made.

8. Overview of Voter Sentiment Survey Results for a Special Election November 2023  
Presented by: Ryan Lee, Intergovernmental Programs Director

[Committee Member McConnell joined the meeting during the agenda item.]

Mr. Lee gave a brief overview of the results of the 2022 bond election, at which the bonds failed to pass. He relayed that he and Ms. Rios saw it as beneficial to poll the citizens and a vendor was hired to conduct an evaluation of off-cycle vote sentiment. He said approximately 400 voters completed the survey. He relayed the results of the survey in detail. He noted that the respondents indicated high interest in funding Public Safety and Streets and Transportation and indicated low interest in funding Parks and Recreation and Flood Control.

Ms. Rios said, based on the survey results and information from the consultant, staff was recommending to Council to hold a 2023 special bond election for just two questions, Public Safety and Streets and Intersection Improvements. She asked if the Committee would take action on a recommendation to Council in regards to holding a 2023 special election and on the two questions.

Committee Member Socaciu asked if the verbiage from the last election would be used for the questions. Ms. Rios said if the two questions were approved by Council, the Bond Committee will spend time on the verbiage for project information for the two questions.

Committee Member Brodnax inquired about the sales tax in Glendale. Ms. Rios explained that Council has a policy not to raise property taxes and new bonds can be issued without raising property taxes. She said bonds could not be used to fund operations, and would only be used for capital projects. Mr. Carlson concurred and said that the types of projects would be those that will outlast the life of the bond.

9. Draft Ballot Language  
Presented by: Vicki Rios, Assistant City Manager

Ms. Rios presented draft questions for Streets and Intersection Improvements with a Principal Amount of \$82 million and Public Safety with a Principal Amount of \$78 million.

Committee Member Brodnax asked what the principal was owed on all G.O. Bonds. Mr. Carlson said the principal was \$160 million. Ms. Rios said the debt service on those bonds was \$20 million annually. Committee Member Brodnax asked if there was any other debt besides the G.O. Bonds. Ms. Rios said there was other debt and explained the different types.

Ms. Rios asked if the Committee wanted to take action on a recommendation to Council. She said staff was going to make the recommendation, however, the Committee could take action on staff's recommendation as well, if it so desired.

Chair Baker asked about any changes in the question language from the 2022 election. Ms. Rios said language was added to the Streets question regarding intersection safety improvements.

Committee Member Socaciu asked if there was urgency to bring a recommendation to Council at this time. Ms. Rios said the county must be notified by May 11<sup>th</sup> if there will be a special election and thus, May 9<sup>th</sup> was the opportunity to obtain Council consensus.

Committee Member Kiser asked if Council had already discussed another special election briefly. Ms. Rios said staff spoke with Council about conducting a survey to determine what was resonating with voters and Council provided consensus to move forward with the survey. Committee Member Kiser asked if Council had seen the survey results. Ms. Rios said Council has seen the results informally, but has not discussed the results.

Committee Member Socaciu asked about the Landfill. Ms. Rios said the Landfill revised their gate rates and has determined that a bond was not needed for another six years or so. Mr. Gibson said the Landfill will also generate revenue off of sales of gas due to the recent installation of a gas capture system.

Committee Member Brodnax expressed concern about deciding to have an election without deciding on the exact projects to be included.

Mr. Lee said the voters will need to see the City will use the funds responsibly and not with overreach.

Committee Member Kiser inquired about a previous discussion regarding reallocation of bond funds. Mr. Lee said legislation had been passed that allowed cities and towns to repurpose existing bond authority within certain criteria. He said this topic was included in the survey, however, it did not poll well and respondents were confused. He said the consultant recommended letting the bond authorities remain and to ask for new authority where needed. Ms. Rios said the last chance for bond repurposing would be in 2024, as it was allowed during a limited timeframe.

**A motion was made by Committee Member Michael Socaciu, second by Committee Chair Lisa Baker, to recommend City Council consider setting up an off-cycle bond election for 2023.**

**AYE: Committee Chair Lisa Baker  
Committee Member Connie Kiser  
Committee Member Sam McConnell  
Committee Member Michael Socaciu**

**Other: Committee Member Jim Brodnax (ABSTAIN)  
Committee Vice Chair Alicia Rubio (ABSENT)  
Committee Member Helena Johnson-Bodine (ABSENT)**

**A motion was made by Committee Member Connie Kiser, second by Committee Member Michael Socaciu, to recommend City Council consider language as presented by staff for the two bond questions for Streets and Intersection Improvements and Public Safety.**

**AYE: Committee Chair Lisa Baker  
Committee Member Connie Kiser  
Committee Member Sam McConnell  
Committee Member Michael Socaciu**  
**Other: Committee Member Jim Brodnax (ABSTAIN)  
Committee Vice Chair Alicia Rubio (ABSENT)  
Committee Member Helena Johnson-Bodine (ABSENT)**

Committee Member Kiser asked if there will be informational brochures for the voters. Ms. Rios said there will be brochures, along with videos on a website. Ms. Rios said staff can show the Committee what was done for the last election and said information on PACs can be included on the next agenda as well.

Committee Member Socaciu asked if staff had statistics on the reach of the last campaign and said it may be found there was a better way to reach people. Ms. Rios said staff had statistics on the website visits. She said not very many people came to the in-person meetings. She explained that staff can only inform people, as City resources cannot be used to influence people how to vote.

Chair Baker asked if the City could post where voters could find election information on the electronic billboards. Ms. Rios said this could be done.

10. Role and Purpose of the Bond Committee  
Presented by: Vicki Rios, Assistant City Manager

Ms. Rios said the committee members were welcome to attend the May 9<sup>th</sup> Council meeting at which the special election recommendations will be made to Council. She said if Council wanted to move forward with the election, the county will be notified. She said project details for the two questions will be obtained from the specific departments and presented to the Committee for discussion and questions.

11. Potential Election Calendar  
Presented by: Levi Gibson, Director, Budget and Finance

Mr. Gibson presented the tentative November 7, 2023 Special Election Internal Timeline.

It was agreed that the next regular meeting of the Citizen Bond Election Committee will be held on May 16, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, located at 5850 West Glendale Avenue, Glendale, Arizona, 85301.

12. Adjournment  
**A motion was made by Committee Member Connie Kiser, second by Committee Member Jim Brodnax to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m.**

**AYE: Committee Chair Lisa Baker  
Committee Member Jim Brodnax  
Committee Member Connie Kiser  
Committee Member Sam McConnell  
Committee Member Michael Socaciu**  
**Other: Committee Vice Chair Alicia Rubio (ABSENT)  
Committee Member Helena Johnson-Bodine (ABSENT)**

The Citizen Bond Election Committee meeting minutes of August 30, 2022 were submitted and approved this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of April 2023.

---

Levi Gibson  
Director, Budget and Finance