



ATTACHMENT A
City of Phoenix
Minutes

Meeting Location:
City Council Chambers
200 W. Jefferson St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

City Council Policy Session

Tuesday, May 2, 2023

2:30 PM

phoenix.gov

CALL TO ORDER

The Phoenix City Council convened in Policy Session on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 2:33 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Councilman Jim Waring joined the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Present: 9 - Councilwoman Betty Guardado, Councilwoman Kesha Hodge Washington, Councilwoman Ann O'Brien, Councilwoman Laura Pastor, Councilman Kevin Robinson, Councilwoman Debra Stark, Councilman Jim Waring, Vice Mayor Yassamin Ansari and Mayor Kate Gallego

COUNCIL INFORMATION AND FOLLOW-UP REQUESTS

Councilwoman Pastor congratulated the first graduating class of prep cooks from the UNITE HERE Local 11 Hospitality Training Academy. She thanked Planning and Development Department staff for speaking about mixed-use development and affordability at the Central Avenue Corridor Growth Discussion. She said she participated in the Empowering Generations 5K organized by African American Reconstruction on Earth Day that raised money for youth scholarships. Councilwoman Pastor thanked residents for providing feedback about the West Phoenix Public High-Capacity Transit Analysis during the meeting by Valley Metro at Maryvale Community Center. She shared the North Encanto Historic District listened to a Public Works information session on trash collection and community notification, plus Neighborhood Services gave information on the Gated Alley Program. Councilwoman Pastor said she enjoyed attending the Poder in Action Community Resource Fair at Sueno Park. She listed upcoming District 4 events, including Coffee Chat on May 3 and the Central Avenue Corridor Growth Discussion on May 10.

Vice Mayor Ansari celebrated Earth Day and Valley Bike Month in April. She encouraged residents to get heat ready by checking their A/C and using weatherization programs. She listed upcoming District 7 neighborhood meetings and park activation. Vice Mayor Ansari highlighted climate conversations about water security innovation projects and also Transportation Electrification Action Plan Workshops hosted at the Brooks Academy, with Spanish speakers expressing their transportation barriers. She expressed gratitude to the Fire Department for keeping recycling plants in compliance and thanked staff who delivered 16 air purifiers to residents in the Via Verde neighborhood. Vice Mayor Ansari stated she would help fill bags for students and families in the Laveen School District as part of Teacher Appreciation Week. She stated a series of advocacy events for gun violence prevention will be hosted this summer with a Phoenix Elementary School District board member. Vice Mayor Ansari recognized May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Councilwoman Guardado attended the ribbon-cutting for a new turf field at James W. Rice Elementary, where 800 students are enrolled. She informed residents about an opioid forum by the Public Health Office at Maryvale Community Center on May 8. She thanked Public Health staff for speaking at a recent neighborhood leaders meeting. Councilwoman Guardado said she was excited for the upcoming ribbon-cutting on May 8 for the Palo Verde Library children's area with new interactive pieces. She highlighted the library staff created a scavenger hunt children can complete for a free book sponsored by the American Library Association. Councilwoman Guardado stated on May 9 at the Arizona Diamondbacks game, as the chairwoman of the Community and Cultural Investment Subcommittee, she will accept a \$10,000 check to sponsor swim lessons in City pools. She gave appreciation to staff and residents who attended the West Phoenix Public High-Capacity Transit Analysis meeting in Maryvale.

Councilwoman O'Brien thanked Fire and Saint Joseph Hospital staff for treating a police officer attacked by a domestic violence suspect and provided an update on the case. She said her Office will work with the County Attorney to crack down on crime.

Mayor Gallego congratulated the Water Services Department and Office of Arts and Culture for winning an award from Arizona Forward. She thanked Library

staff for the commemoration of Deborah Dillon, who created College Depot at Burton Barr Library. Mayor Gallego congratulated St. Vincent De Paul for breaking ground on a 100-bed facility with workforce programs and accommodation for pets. She stated the City contributed \$6 million to the facility.

CONSENT ACTION

This item is scheduled to allow the City Council to act on the Mayor's recommendations on the Consent Agenda. There is no Consent Agenda for this meeting.

CALL FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION

A vote may be held to call an Executive Session for a future date.

REPORTS AND BUDGET UPDATES BY THE CITY MANAGER

This item is scheduled to allow the City Manager to provide brief informational reports on topics of interest to the City Council. The City Council may discuss these reports but no action will be taken.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION (ITEM 1)

1 FY 2023-24 City Manager's Proposed Budget

Discussion

City Manager Jeffrey Barton thanked the Council for their leadership and guidance throughout the budget development process. He stated the budget reflects how the Council feels about the capabilities of employees serving residents. Mr. Barton recognized the Budget and Research Department for skilled budget creation and introduced Budget and Research Director Amber Williamson.

Ms. Williamson described the General Fund status, community feedback received and related proposed changes to the General Fund budget, proposed non-General Fund budget additions, and next steps in the budget process.

Mayor Gallego opened the floor to Councilmember questions and comments.

Councilwoman Stark thanked staff for a successful budget proposal with considerations from the Council and community. She said she was pleased to see the increased compensation for City staff. She expressed excitement for cricket, which was proposed in her district. She asked about the possible set-aside funding from the Planning and Development Department for affordable housing permits.

Mr. Barton replied staff would evaluate savings at year-end or during the technical review process to fund a pilot program for waiving permit fees for specific types of development, and staff could submit a potential supplemental for a continuous program in Fiscal Year 2024-25.

Councilwoman Stark understood the need to develop a process to address the important allocation of funds to affordable housing.

Councilwoman Guardado thanked staff and asked if the streetsweeper for bike lanes would be used citywide.

Ms. Williamson replied yes.

Councilwoman Guardado asked if the public can see an online schedule of when their bike lanes would be cleaned.

Mr. Barton responded that recent conversations with the Governor's Office revealed there might be additional funding opportunities.

Street Transportation Director Kini Knudson replied dust control street sweeping currently published schedules and said staff could create a similar process for the bike lane sweeper.

Councilwoman Guardado expressed her preference for the City website to systematically show times of services like bulk trash, bike lane sweeping, and similarly the planned bus stop cleanings. She stated she supported the budget with employee compensation. Councilwoman Guardado thanked District 5 residents for completing budget engagement surveys to express their support of stronger and safer communities with needs such as 911 and Crime Stop operators, bulk trash, more pool openings, and filling Head Start classrooms.

Vice Mayor Ansari expressed excitement about the budget investments, specifically the 22 positions for Urban Park Rangers. She stated she would like to see a program like Glendale's ability to waive fees for affordable housing projects. Vice Mayor Ansari also requested funding for public bathrooms in the downtown core.

Councilwoman Pastor thanked staff for accommodating community meetings and hearing the needs of the arts community. She was appreciative of the inclusion of the Phoenix Day Early Childhood Education Center and Gated Alley Program. She expressed a hope to demonstrate equity across all districts with a schedule for street maintenance and bike lane cleaning. Councilwoman Pastor stated there will be a mass exodus of knowledge when employees leave or retire, and agreed with the need for employee compensation in the budget.

Councilman Waring left the meeting at 3:19 p.m.

Mayor Gallego thanked staff for the important budget process that addressed community feedback in various areas like economic development, affordable housing, service delivery, employee compensation, early childhood education, and homelessness solutions. She expressed hope that Congress would raise the debt ceiling to help the economy upon which the City budget was dependent.

Councilwoman O'Brien thanked staff who worked on the City budget. She agreed with the addition of cricket and the Phoenix Day Early Childhood Education Center. Councilwoman O'Brien asked if the proposed budget has continued funding for supplemental park ranger security.

Parks and Recreation Director Cynthia Aguilar replied the six-month pilot park supplemental security program that ran through July was funded from salary savings. She stated staff was prepared to extend that as needed to fill the time gap for when the third shift park rangers would start.

Councilwoman O'Brien asked if the new 14 third-shift park rangers would monitor the entire park system.

Ms. Aguilar replied yes and added the current pilot program has 24 park rangers across 12 parks.

Councilwoman O'Brien expressed concern about park rangers monitoring a larger area and asked how much funding would be needed for an annual contract for supplemental security service.

Ms. Aguilar responded security services beyond the trial period would need approved funding of \$1.1 million annually.

Ms. Williamson said staff would assist the Parks and Recreation Department to identify savings if it was the will of the Council to continue the contract.

Mr. Barton explained the contract was flexible and emphasized the Human Resources Department could early onboard park rangers to eliminate the gap of patrol in parks.

Councilwoman O'Brien stated constituents were fearful of going backwards due to downtown displacement if there were not additional resources to enforce park rules.

Mr. Barton added there may be a future expansion of the third-shift park rangers dependent on budget status next year.

Councilwoman O'Brien appreciated a conservative budget approach.

Councilwoman Pastor asked how the pilot security program would be phased out and new park rangers would be phased in. She specifically asked if there would be overlap between the security services and park rangers.

Ms. Aguilar replied recruitment was set to begin in May and staff asked current park rangers interested in training to become urban flatland park rangers. She stated the timeline of onboarding may overlap.

Councilwoman Pastor requested there be overlap with the security

service and park rangers for the sharing daily challenges of the parks. She expressed concern of individuals moving from the area around the campus into other districts.

Ms. Aguilar responded daily reports showed type of activity in parks every night.

Mr. Barton stated staff could explore the opportunity for additional contractual spending authority to fill the gap in service.

Councilwoman Pastor requested consideration about 24-hour bathroom safety overnight.

Councilman Robinson asked for clarification that the development of the current contract allows for adjustments.

Mr. Barton replied he would need to evaluate if there could be an extension for spending authority and contract addendums.

Councilwoman Guardado asked if parks with evening safety concerns can be prioritized while hiring park rangers.

Ms. Aguilar responded data drove prioritization of parks in greatest need.

Mr. Barton added many park rangers were in new hire orientations recently.

Mayor Gallego celebrated the first budget meeting together with the newly elected Councilmembers.

Mayor Gallego opened the floor to public comment.

Michelle Duval spoke in support of efficient vans for public transit Dial-a-Ride and more drivers to abide by the Americans with Disabilities Act and provide a more pleasant riding experience.

Craig Tribken thanked staff for the inclusion of New Leaf's Phoenix Day Early Childhood Center. He expressed his opinion about the strength of

the City's budget process.

Elizabeth Venable requested more funding be allocated to affordable housing to plan for the future.

Representative Annalise Ortiz spoke in support of waiving affordable housing development fees, to allow for increased housing with wrap around services.

Viri Hernandez spoke in opposition of the Police budget and requested public bathrooms and repairing park equipment.

Ben Laughlin spoke in opposition of the Police budget and said members of their community prioritized park repairs, free public transit, free Wi-Fi, and 24-hour restrooms.

Hassan Rafi thanked the City for allocating funds to cricket fields. He requested cricket facilities, like baseball or soccer complexes.

Shalae Flores requested evaluation of the Police budget and for Council to reconsider definitions of victim and homelessness.

Santosh Bhugatha thanked Council and staff for the most diversified budget in decades and expressed appreciation for funding cricket.

Blanca Abarca spoke in support of less funding to the Police budget and increased funding to the Pueblo's budget for free public transportation and to change the environment for vulnerable populations.

Stephanie Espinosa spoke in support of free public Wi-Fi, increased 24/7 public restrooms, free public transportation, expanded weatherization program, repairing park equipment, and increased funding for departments that provide solutions.

Rebecca Denis spoke in support of the Pueblo's budget. She spoke against the opinion editorial in AZ Central about compensation to police officers.

Miros Domenzain spoke in support of the Pueblo's budget and requested more funding for residents to lead happy lives in the current economy.

Isabel Garcia spoke against the opinion editorial in AZ Central regarding traumatic events of police officers compared to overly-policed neighborhood stress.

Martha Avendano spoke in support of free public Wi-Fi for the Maryvale community.

Estella Barela spoke in opposition to the Police budget and in support of using taxpayer dollars as a budget of the people, for needs like free public Wi-Fi, 24/7 public restrooms, and free public transportation.

Irma Pacheco requested affordable housing for the working class.

Senator Anna Hernandez spoke in opposition to the Police budget and requested funding other priorities like affordable housing and homelessness solutions.

Vikram Sivakumar spoke in support of youth cricket.

Ben Lewis spoke in opposition to the Police budget.

Sushil Rao spoke in opposition to the Police budget.

Vice Mayor Ansari asked if a pilot program for public bathrooms could be implemented before May 16.

Mr. Barton replied he would need to coordinate with staff and find savings for a balanced budget.

Vice Mayor Ansari requested two piloted Portaloos, similar to the one at the 22nd Avenue Shelter.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Gallego declared the meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.
