

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission October 7, 2015

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on October 7, 2015 from 5:30-7:00 p.m., at 3rd Floor Conference Room of City Hall, 31 East 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present: Karen Adams, Nancy Buell, Cole Hickman, Matt Korbeck, Kiyomi Kurooka, Nancy Lesko, Candyce Lindsay, Josephine McNamara, Robert Miller, Christopher Ware.

(MEMBERS) Absent: Josephine McNamara, Bill Munch, Julie Ramsey, Scott Smas

City Staff Present: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Andrew Ching, City Manager, andrew_ching@tempe.gov, 480-350-8575; Marilyn DeRosa, Deputy Public Works Director – Water Utilities, marilyn_derosa@tempe.gov, 480-350-2660; Charles Bladine, Public Works Supervisor – Field Operations, charles_bladine@tempe.gov, 480-350-8563

Guests Present: None.

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

No members of the public present.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: September 2, 2015

Commissioner Lesko made a motion to accept the minutes, Commissioner Ware seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – Police Chief Recruitment

Elizabeth explained that since City Manager Andrew Ching was unable to attend the meeting as initially planned. Commissioners were given the opportunity to provide feedback at the meeting regarding desired characteristics and process for hiring of the Police Chief as well as issues to be prioritized and provided Andrew's email for direct communication if desired.

Commissioners offered the following thoughts and feedback:

- Conduct both internal and external recruitment searches and do so concurrently.
- Tempe has very special needs with ASU. Need strong skill set to be able to address this diverse and peculiar population. Not every university town has our mix/melting pot.

- Seek out a strong law enforcement professional with strong character to match.
- We need someone who can be a leader in the Valley and beyond.
- Phoenix has had some issues with outside candidates.
- Humility
- Serve and Protect with the emphasis on Serve.
- Cast a wide net, tendency to look within, organizations can suffer from insularity of thought.
- The university does present different circumstances, need someone who has familiarity serving in a university setting.
- Agreed, Town Gown familiarity and expertise is a must.
- Looking at internal and external candidates adds integrity and builds confidence in the process
- What is the process going to be moving forward?
- Will you have a search committee? Who will serve on it? Will you have members of the public on the search committee?
- Will this hiring process go back before the public?
- Will there be ASU involvement in the process? There should be.
- PD has to enforce loud parties, deal with off campus student housing issues and successfully interact with varied neighbors and neighborhoods

Commissioners concluded their comments by requesting an update on the process from Andrew Ching as soon as it becomes available.

Agenda Item 5 – Water/Wastewater and Solid Waste Utility Rate Update

Marilyn DeRosa, Deputy Public Works Director Water Utilities and Charlie Bladine, Public Works Supervisor Field Operations provided commissioners background information along with an overview of proposed changes to solid waste, water and sewer rates. For solid waste, alley conditions and diversion (i.e. green organics and recycling efforts) are the focus. The emphasis for water and sewer is on aging infrastructure replacement, short-term capital improvement project debt funding and a model and rate structure designed to encourage conservation.

The city has been working with consultants for several months to examine factors pertaining to cost of service, cost allocation, rate design and analysis of impact aimed at determining what is needed to make both funds sustainable over time. Council wants to keep a 15% fund balance in the solid waste fund. The fund balance was between 5-6 million but has been drawn down considerably due to upkeep of operations and no rate increases in the last six years. The current rates are not recovering costs. With the proposed rate increases, the fund balance is projected to reach 15% in 2020. Residential customers will see an adjustment of the monthly rates but the existing structure will remain the same while commercial customers will have a structural rate modification which will include a roll off rate, large volume adjustments and an expansion of commercial recycling. There will be some flexibility in the pricing of commercial bids to try to address competition. Effective July 1, 2016 there will be a state statute changing multi-family customers to “commercial” customers which is anticipated to impact the customer base as they will be shopping for the best rate.

Arizona state statutes require that water and sewer rates be “just and reasonable.” Expenses and revenues need to be closely aligned to ensure some customers are not subsidizing others. Solid waste staff is always looking for ways to implement efficiencies. Garbage trucks get only two miles per gallon, anything that can be done to reduce miles helps reduce cost and environmental impacts. The cost of placing refuse in the landfill runs approximately \$26.00 per ton and approximately \$25.00 per ton is paid for clean recycling. Both operations require trucks, maintenance, drivers and fuel.

The water/sewer fund is a much larger fund than solid waste with a budget of approximately \$100 million per year. The fund balance policy boils down to retaining three to four months of operating costs. The water customer classes include: residential, commercial, multi-family, landscape, industrial and construction. Part of the analysis process is trying to predict usage which is easier to do with residential customers than the other classes. The proposal moving forward for residential usage is to maintain the base rate charge while changing the volume tiers and rates which will reduce charges for low volume users, and increase charges for high volume users. The usage charge for those using more than about 14,000 gallons a month will increase to encourage conservation efforts. The construction class will experience a greater increase as analysis has determined that it was costing more to serve this class than the utility was collecting.

Next steps in the process are anticipated to include an October 15 notice of intention and publish of same on website, a November 19 City Council hearing and adoption with implementation effective January 1, 2016. Commissioners complimented involved staff and consultants on the user friendly presentation and materials.

Agenda Item 6 – McClintock Pool Update

In June of this year, Mayor and Council approved staff to move forward with necessary improvements to open McClintock pool to the public and continued usage of swim teams. Improvements will be made to the aging infrastructure of the main pool only and it’s anticipated the pool will be open for public usage by the summer of 2017.

Proposed Agenda Items for November or Future Meeting

- Neighborhood Park Renovations Discussion (TNT)
- Plan joint meeting/gathering with Historic Preservation Commission

Agenda Item 7 –Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.