

***PLEASE NOTE: Since the Glendale City Council does not take formal action at the Workshops, Workshop minutes are not approved by the City Council.**



**MINUTES OF THE
GLENDALE CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SESSION
Council Chambers – Room B3
5850 West Glendale Avenue
October 15, 2013
1:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mayor Jerry P. Weiers, Vice Mayor Yvonne J. Knaack and Councilmembers Norma S. Alvarez, Ian Hugh, Manuel D. Martinez, Gary D. Sherwood, and Samuel U. Chavira

ALSO PRESENT: Brenda Fischer, City Manager; Julie Frisoni, Interim Assistant City Manager; Michael Bailey, City Attorney; and Pamela Hanna, City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

WORKSHOP SESSION

4. GLENDAL LIGHT RAIL UPDATE

PRESENTED BY: Cathy Colbath, Interim Executive Director, Transportation Services

The purpose of this discussion is to update the City Council on the current high-capacity transit study (West Phoenix/Central Glendale Alternatives Analysis) with preliminary corridor findings. Valley Metro staff will be present to outline the benefits and impacts of light rail and the steps the city can take to make this a successful project.

Ms. Colbath introduced Mr. Steve Banta, Chief Executive Officer and Wulf Grote, Director Planning and Development for Valley Metro.

Mr. Banta first spoke about the value of high-capacity transportation. Since Prop 400 was passed, there is an opportunity to expand mass transit throughout the valley. He discussed the light rail project and how it was going to be expanded. He said they have tried to prioritize the new corridors before going for Prop 500. He said they always try to talk about the successes of the light rail system. He went over statistics regarding the number of passengers. He said the system has been a huge success. He said local investment grows in the areas they have developed with the light rail. He spoke about connecting various destinations. He introduced Mr. Grote to provide further details of the project.

Mr. Grote provided more in-depth background on the project, which included the beginning of the project in 2001 through where the project is in 2013. He spoke about their analysis of moving forward with the project going into downtown Glendale versus sending the project into the Westgate area or to ASU West on Thunderbird Road. He said both Westgate and the downtown Glendale areas warranted further study. Last year, both options were brought forward to the Council and it was determined that the route to downtown Glendale was probably the first investment to make. He said both corridors were feasible, with the downtown corridor being the near term opportunity because it would help with redevelopment in the area, it has higher ridership potential and has more opportunity for federal funding success.

Councilmember Martinez asked about the plans for the light rail to come down Glendale Avenue or Grand Avenue. Mr. Grote said no plans had been finalized and studies were still being conducted on the different route options.

Mr. Grote discussed the options included in the study area for the light rail route. He said they also need to determine the right type of transit opportunities for the area, which includes not only light rail, but street cars and high capacity busses. He also talked about many other considerations they have to factor in, including bike lanes, traffic configurations and determining which streets would be appropriate. He said they involve the public in the process from early on as they want the public's input at the beginning of the project. They also work with community members and groups, businesses and local leaders in the area. Mr. Grote said they work closely with city staff and they are part of the project management team to help meet the needs of the community. He discussed the purpose and needs of this project, and went over the financial data for the Glendale corridor, and the cost which is over \$550 million. He explained several different route options that still needed to be evaluated and the various factors that need to be taken into consideration. Mr. Grote said they have had a number of public meetings recently about this project and they are taking these proposals to the community over the next several weeks. He reviewed their study schedule through Spring of 2015 in the analysis. He said these types of projects can take anywhere from 18 months to 5 years, depending on the needs of the community.

Vice Mayor Knaack asked what consideration has been given to the alignment of Northern Parkway. Mr. Grote said the assessment has just begun and they will be working with the city and staff about how the project might affect Northern Parkway. Ms. Colbath said initially that was not one of the considerations, but a part of the study is to determine the correct alignment. Vice Mayor Knaack said she supports light rail, but she does not approve it going through downtown Glendale.

Councilmember Martinez asked if enough money is being put aside for this project. Ms. Colbath said there are no light rail funds allocated as of right now. She said as they move closer to the date, allocation for funding will be set aside at a future date with the GO program.

Councilmember Sherwood asked Mr. Grote to explain how Mesa approached this project and the outcome. Mr. Grote said the project will run through downtown Mesa right on Main Street. He said there was a lot of discussion about the location of the light rail. He

said Mesa wanted the light rail to be right on Main Street and to be a major part of their future investment in their downtown. Ms. Colbath also said they would be happy to set up a meeting with Mesa so the Council would have an opportunity to see how they handled the project and address concerns.

Councilmember Sherwood said there was a conference coming up in Seattle which presented an opportunity to see how light rail is working in that area. He said he would be attending with staff and they would also visit two cities near Portland, Oregon to see how their programs are working as well.

Councilmember Chavira commented this is a great idea to connect with other cities who are adopting light rail.

1. COUNCIL ITEM OF SPECIAL INTEREST: DISCUSSION OF NEW PARK AMENITIES AT GLENDALE HEROES REGIONAL PARK
PRESENTED BY: Erik Strunk, Executive Director, Parks, Recreation and Library Services

The purpose of this item is to provide Council with information related to the phased development of Glendale Heroes Regional Park and to initiate dialogue on possible future development opportunities within the park. This item was requested at the August 20, 2013 City Council Workshop.

Mr. Strunk introduced Mike Gregory who is the Parks Maintenance Manager. He provided a brief description and history of Heroes Regional Park. He also spoke about the various amenities which are planned for the park, including a dog park, recreation center and a library. He said at this time, there is no money to complete any of these projects. He said the current priorities are maintenance of the existing facilities. He said the three questions to be addressed now are what is the cost to build soccer fields, what is the cost to green up the southwest portion of the park and is there support for creating an archery range. Mr. Strunk discussed the areas of the park that have already been developed and what remains undeveloped.

Mr. Gregory spoke about the soccer fields and the estimated cost for this project would be about \$900,000. The second option, which would be the athletic field with the lighting removed, would cost about \$613,500. He next discussed the greening up of approximately 23 acres in the southwest section of the park. The cost is approximately \$150,000. A second option would be about \$2.5 million. He next discussed the archery range. He said that safety was paramount. The total cost of construction of the archery range would be approximately \$50,000.

Mr. Strunk said they would provide more exact numbers if Council was interested in moving forward with this project. He said they have over 100 park amenities currently that have to be maintained. He said any new projects come with a price and they would have to have discussions about any costs and the maintenance of any new facilities.

Mayor Weiers said all these new projects would be great, but the archery range would have the lowest cost. He said there are organizations that will provide labor, materials, and

archery stands. He said he couldn't understand where the \$50,000 fee came from that Mr. Strunk presented. Mr. Strunk said after looking at other archery ranges, safety was their highest concern. Mayor Weiers asked about the need for a berm. Mr. Strunk said the berm was needed to stop any errant arrows. He said they don't envision this project without a fence around it. He said neighbors are only 500 feet to the north of where the archery range would go. He said it was important to control the ingress and egress to the archery facility. Mayor Weiers asked if they would support this if they could find a group that could assist with running this facility so city staff would not be responsible. Mr. Strunk said this was a little different than what was envisioned for this park. He said they would need to check into who would support this and who could help run this facility and even if this is the correct site for this type of facility. He would like to have an opportunity to engage the public and work with some of the archery groups for more discussion and input on this idea.

Ms. Fischer said the first question that needs to be answered is there a need for this type of facility in the city. She asked Mr. Strunk if this was something the community was demanding of the city. Mr. Strunk said there are indoor archery ranges in Glendale. Ms. Fischer asked if they could get separate direction on these items.

Councilmember Chavira said this park is only partially developed. He said they would like to green up the park to keep down the dust and to utilize soccer fields. He asked if they are going to approve this project to do more research on it or just to go ahead and implement the project.

Mayor Weiers said they should research the project to get more information before moving forward.

Mr. Strunk said they should explore any interest from outside groups to assist with this project. He said other cities have successfully completed projects like this. He said this project has to have almost no cost to the city as it will come at the expense of something else due to the tight budgets.

Vice Mayor Knaack said it would be great to have a project like this, but she said they have no money or staffing for this right now. She said it is not fiscally responsible to do this at this time. She said they have to maintain what they have right now before they build anything new. She is not in favor of this at this time.

Councilmember Sherwood agreed with Vice Mayor Knaack. He went over numbers and costs. He said it's a good idea to get that park up and running, but with the financial situation the city is in right now, it just isn't feasible.

Councilmember Martinez said at this time, he doesn't see how they city can do this project. He asked if irrigation was still cut in the parks or if it is back to normal now. Mr. Strunk said they did receive an increase in their irrigation funds. Councilmember Martinez said they need to maintain what they have. If they green up this park, they are adding to the upkeep costs. He asked if the public would support this or would they rather that money be put aside for a library in the future. Mr. Strunk said the park was conceived almost 10 years ago. He said it will be FY18-19 before he has any extra money in his budget for this project.

Councilmember Alvarez said they should hold off on this project for now, but put a priority on it in the future. It's important to give the Yucca residents this priority. She said the Council should put a priority on taking care of what they have now and then once the money comes in then get the park finished. Mr. Strunk said they have to maintain what we have. Councilmember Alvarez said this project was bypassed in the past because of politics. She said that nothing else comes first and this needs to be a priority.

Councilmember Chavira gave some background on how this item about the park came about. He said this came from the community reaching out to him about this park area.

Mayor Weiers said they need to maintain what they have. He said he would like to focus on just the archery range as it could be done right now. He asked how many libraries maintained full hours right now. Mr. Strunk said the libraries were open 182 hours on a regular schedule and those hours have been cut to 111 hours right now. Mayor Weiers asked if the pools have had their hours reduced. Mr. Strunk said school pool sites have been cut and pool hours have been cut as well. Mayor Weiers asked Mr. Strunk if he thought that the city should build a new library and the other amenities at this park before putting existing libraries and pools back to normal operating hours. Mr. Strunk said recommendation is to explore that question first. Mayor Weiers said with regard to the archery range, if people were willing to donate labor and time to operate the facility so the city had no cost, why couldn't they explore the archery facility. Mr. Strunk said if this is cost neutral to the city, they would welcome a discussion about this. He said volunteers would be great, but they need to be committed to it and the terms need to be made clear. Mayor Weiers asked about reducing the project to a smaller scale. Mayor Weiers said he would like to try and get public support and see if it would work.

Vice Mayor Knaack asked how much staff time this would entail. Mr. Strunk said he wouldn't be able to answer that question, but details would need to be worked out. He said the Parks and Recreation Commission is a good place to start. Vice Mayor Knaack asked if this is the best and highest use for this area. She said maybe citizens just want grass instead of an archery range.

Councilmember Alvarez asked if there had been a lot of calls for an archery range. Mr. Strunk said he received one phone call in the last 6 months related to this issue. He said archery wasn't a prominent item in the park master plan. Mayor Weiers said both he and Councilmember Chavira have been approached about this issue. Councilmember Alvarez said if the people want it in that area, but they need to check.

Councilmember Chavira said this came up as there are a lot of hunters in his district. He said they need to check with the community as to what their top priority is. They do need to check on this.

Councilmember Hugh asked if Mayor Weiers was talking about partnering with Game & Fish with no cost to the city for this project. Mayor Weiers said by partnering with Game & Fish, they will supply certain things, but archery groups have also expressed an interest in providing both equipment and labor. He said the city would be out nothing. Councilmember Hugh said this is an idea worth exploring. He also mentioned there might

be another area for consideration as an archery range. He said they should investigate this issue as well.

Mayor Weiers said they do know people who are willing to help put up an archery range.

Councilmember Sherwood asked Councilmember Chavira if the public would even know there was an archery range located on that big piece of property. He also said with the other facilities that were mentioned earlier, the city would want their facility to be at least comparable to the other archery ranges in the valley. He said it might be worth exploring putting the archery range on a smaller piece of property where it could be highlighted.

Councilmember Chavira said this range should be comparable to the other archery ranges. He said the main idea was to have a partnership which would have zero cost to the city.

Councilmember Martinez said in response to the statement made that this park was bypassed due to politics, the Council is a political body and the decisions made are made by the majority. He spoke about the Foothills Aquatic Center. He said before it was built, Council determined that most of the cost would be recovered through user fees. He said that is the only reason why that facility was built. He asked Mr. Strunk what the self-sustaining percentage was of the aquatic center. Mr. Strunk said it was about 82 percent. Councilmember Martinez asked if any other facilities took in revenue like that. Mr. Strunk said summer aquatics was about 60 percent cost recovery and the Adult Center was about 42 or 43 percent cost recovery.

Mayor Weiers asked if the Council would support the archery range if it was feasible through partnership and with no cost to the city. Council supported the idea if there was no cost. Mayor Weiers asked if there was consensus to move forward with the green up or soccer fields at the park. Council did not support this.

Ms. Fischer said Councilmember Hugh suggested looking into other locations and asked for clarification if Council wished to look at other locations as well. Several councilmembers stated their preference keeping it at Heroes Regional Park.

2. COUNCIL ITEM OF SPECIAL INTEREST: SISTER CITIES
PRESENTED BY: Kristen Krey, Council Services Administrator

Staff is seeking guidance from City Council regarding pursuance of participation in a sister cities program.

Ms. Krey provided the historical background for this item. Glendale had been a participant with Sister Cities International, but that relationship was dissolved in 2003. She provided information about the Sister Cities International program. She spoke about the costs to belong to these organizations. She also gave some examples of valley cities that participate in a Sister Cities program and spoke about the models used by those cities. She said there needs to be specific guidelines, programming and mission for a sister cities program. Ms. Krey said she understood the cities of interest would be Canadian cities that play hockey at Jobing.com Arena.

Vice Mayor Knaack said she would like to know the cost before they vote to proceed with this item. Ms. Krey said membership in the Arizona Sister Cities organization is \$50 and membership in the Sister Cities International organization is \$880 per year. She said the additional cost would be staff time involved in order to develop this program. She also said the prior sister cities program consisted of a group of volunteers that operated separately from the city. They were not a board or commission appointed by council.

Mayor Weiers asked Ms. Krey if citizens were able to join the sister cities program on their own. Ms. Krey said they could. Mayor Weiers said it would be ideal if the city would be allowed to participate in that type of a program.

Councilmember Sherwood said he had done some research on this issue. He said he talked to most of the owners of Coyotes and they are very much in favor of this idea. He also talked with the Glendale Pride Ambassadors and they would be excited about this as well. He said there is a lot of interest and this organization could collaborate to get this program going. He said there are many Canadian visitors to the Glendale area. He spoke about some of the history Glendale has had with sister cities. He would like to see this idea explored a little more whether at the staff level or through Glendale Civic Pride.

Councilmember Martinez offered some background on the activities of previous sister city program. He said there was a cost to be considered with the sister cities programs. However, he thought having a sister city in Canada should be explored; it seemed the cost would be minimal. He understood that there is a lot of interest in the community.

Councilmember Chavira thanked Ms. Krey and staff for the presentation. He referenced the sister city handbook about support for this program and the rewards in having such a program. He also said he would like to explore the previous connections that Glendale had with previous sister cities.

Vice Mayor Knaack said the Civic Pride Ambassadors would be a perfect organization to assist with the sister cities program and she would like to pursue this further.

Mayor Weiers said there is a city in Taiwan that was interested in having Glendale as a sister city. He would like Council to be open to various cities that might bring economic development to Glendale. He wanted to verify what cost neutral meant. He asked if the city was going to put money into this or just participate with other organizations that would run this program. He would like to support a sister city policy.

Councilmember Sherwood said he would not want to limit Glendale to one sister city. He said the Canadian connection would be a great place to start.

Mayor Weiers asked about the \$880 yearly fee and if the cost is per sister city or just one annual fee. Ms. Krey said she would have to clarify that but believed the fee was just \$880 per year, regardless of how many sister cities Glendale partnered with. She noted that some valley cities partner with many sister cities.

Councilmember Sherwood said partnering with an outside organization would be the best route, so as not to incur any staff costs for the city.

Ms. Fisher said staff will do some more research and clarify issues and bring this item back. Ms. Krey added it should be representative of the community as a whole and should have the economic development part attached to it as well.

There was consensus to move forward on this issue.

3. COUNCIL ITEM OF SPECIAL INTEREST: DISCUSSION REGARDING THE TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION
PRESENTED BY: Michael Bailey, City Attorney

Staff is providing an update and seeking guidance from Council regarding property located at approximately 91st and Northern Avenues and the Tohono O'odham Nation application for transfer of the land into trust for the benefit of the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Mr. Bailey provided a brief background of this issue. He also provided a litigation status update. He also discussed a history of state and federal legislative action. He said in light of the government shutdown, no action is expected anytime soon. He said the direction Council is headed in has been a 5 year effort. He said it is critical that as they move through this process, they preserve the short and long term relationships that have been established. He said Council is in a very unique situation and patience is needed. He said they are very close to the end. He said Council should look at how they should communicate, relevant data, how to cooperate and relationships that have formed.

Councilmember Chavira said before they can make any decisions, they need to have dialogue. He said once all the facts are in, they can make a balanced decision regarding which direction to move. He proposed moving into a dialogue phase. Mr. Bailey said dialogue might reset discussions.

Councilmember Martinez said his position is well known on this issue and it has not changed. He said there have been news articles about starting a dialogue, but his position is they wait. He said starting dialogue or negotiations sends a strong message and he doesn't think it is the right time. He said it will send a signal to the Department of Interior as a decision might have already been made by them and the city isn't aware of it. He said starting a dialogue now makes it a lot easier for the Department of Interior to make their decision. He doesn't agree that we need to start a dialogue or negotiations at this time. He said there are costs that are going to be a burden to the city for many years to come. At this time, the city needs to sit back and wait for the decision. He said there is an old saying it's not over until the fat lady sings and he hasn't heard the fat lady sing yet, but thinks it is getting close.

Councilmember Alvarez wanted to clarify statements made in the past and said the community is excited about hearing from both sides. She said a lot of misinformation has been given out regarding what their responsibilities will be and what kind of relationship the Tohono O'Odham nation will have with the city. She said much of this misinformation came from the Councilmembers. She said a decision needs to be made based on what the community wants, not based on politics. She said they need to explain the truth to the public. Councilmember Alvarez said she wants to know what the Tohono O'Odham nation

has to offer. She said the public wants to know that the nation wants to bring jobs to Glendale.

Mr. Bailey said part of that would be gathering data from the Tohono O'Odham nation and their willingness to provide that to the city. He said part of this litigation is an informative process and part of that is to wait for the Department of Interior decision.

Councilmember Alvarez said they have been provided information from the Tohono O'Odham nation in the past. She said they have to work for the voters of Glendale. She said all she is asking is to open the dialogue.

Councilmember Chavira said he is pushing for dialogue to find out the truth. He said this is a great opportunity for a fact-finding mission. He said he has received close to 2,000 emails in favor of this. He wants to have all the facts available to the public.

Vice Mayor Knaack said she is not against casinos, but it is the bigger picture of the sovereign nation inside the city that bothers her. It will have an impact on the city and it concerns her. She said all of this should have been done five years ago. She would like to know what the impacts will be. She would like to check into the economic impact would be if the casino came to Glendale. She said the public has never really understood this issue. She hasn't changed her position and it would be beneficial if staff did an assessment so they would have the knowledge to move forward.

Mr. Bailey said this would allow Glendale to preserve relationships. He said Vice Mayor Knaack's statement would allow staff to approach the Tohono O'Odham nation and ask for additional information. He said there would be dialogue, but would assist in providing more information.

Councilmember Hugh asked what was the 5 year effort and the success rate.

Mr. Bailey said the two most critical areas of success still remain unanswered, which include the items before the senate and the item before the Department of Interior. He said everyone looks at litigation as a win/lose proposition. Councilmember Hugh and Mr. Bailey had further discussion about where the litigation stands at this time. Councilmember Hugh asked Mr. Bailey if the Tohono O'Odham nation was going to be successful with the Department of Interior. Mr. Bailey said the next decision will provide greater clarity as to what the decision making process was. He said if they make a decision now, some may consider that premature as they don't know what the Department of Interior decision is going to be. Councilmember Hugh and Mr. Bailey had further discussion about Prop 202.

Councilmember Chavira agreed that they need to have dialogue to assist them in making a decision.

Councilmember Martinez asked with respect to Prop 200, even though the courts have ruled against it, is that law still on the books. Mr. Bailey said yes. Councilmember Martinez said when Prop 200 was being discussed; the tribe was in agreement with the language. The language said there would be no more casinos in the Phoenix metropolitan area. He

said Glendale is in the Phoenix metropolitan area. He said even Chairman Norris was out getting the support of the community. Councilmember Martinez said he voted for it. He said he got the same 2,000 plus emails in support of this as other Councilmembers, but a lot of the emails are from other cities, and it's the same message in the email. He said there was a statement made that there was misinformation by a Councilmember on this issue. He said he would like to know who the Councilmember was because the misinformation is the fact that the community supports this. He said he didn't think community support has been shown just because they get those emails. He said recently they had a large turnout on this issue where people spoke in support. He said the nation is in an all-out press on this, because of the amount of emails coming in every day for the last 2 or 3 weeks. He said it was alluded to that misinformation was put out by the Councilmembers themselves. He asked how casinos attract their customers, by cheap alcohol, cheap food and low cost hotel rooms. He said all the businesses out at Westgate pay taxes, and the casino will never pay taxes. He said when the city planned that area, 75 to 80 percent was supposed to be business and commercial, with very little residential. They wanted the businesses out there with the income coming into the city. He said that is never going to happen. He said the city is going to miss out on \$3-\$4 million a year in revenue. He quoted from the Glendale Initial Statement of Legal Position from 2009, which said it would cost about \$14.6 million back then. There will also be infrastructure costs for sewer, water and roadways. He said there will be additional police and fire costs. Between those two items alone, it will be \$3.7 million a year. He also mentioned the congress and senators and tribes that have supported Glendale. He said down the road, this could come back to haunt the city. He said a lot of powerful people will remember if the city reverses their position on this issue.

Councilmember Alvarez said she has been to both casinos and they shouldn't get into the casino business. She said the tribe is willing to pay for police and fire. She said the city will get their money. Councilmembers represent the people and their money. She said this will make jobs for Glendale. She said they have made big mistakes and that is why the city is in the position it is in. She said they need to learn humility.

Councilmember Chavira said he is in support of having a dialogue. He mentioned an issue that took place recently that concerned the hockey team and the emails they received. He said they move should forward to have a dialogue with the Tohono O'Odham nation

Councilmember Sherwood spoke about the history of casinos starting with Las Vegas and then development of casinos in the valley. His position has not changed. He ran against the casinos in his campaign, but supports moving forward with dialogue. He is also interested in the sports and entertainment district, even changing the footprint, if this were to go forward. He has spoken with Westgate officials and they all support dialogue. He asked if beginning a dialogue would hurt their positions in the current litigation.

Mr. Bailey said in general, his answer is no. He reiterated his understanding that Councilmember Sherwood is opposed to the idea of the casino, but he wants information gathering to take place. Mr. Bailey said he hasn't seen anything that would lessen the city's position if dialogue were to take place.

Mayor Weiers said he met with Chairman Norris in his office at the state legislature. He said all members of the Council have spent time investigating this issue. He said it is of concern to him that the casino will be competing with surrounding businesses that will be paying taxes, and this is an unfair advantage. He said he has not changed his position, and cautioned Councilmembers about ignoring the advice of the City Attorney.

Councilmember Hugh agreed with Councilmember Sherwood that they should start the dialogue for fact-finding. He said the casino will create jobs. Regarding taxes, he said they haven't received any taxes on the disputed land in over twenty years. He said attracting visitors to Glendale is a great way to protect the businesses at Westgate. He wants to get the discussion going to get their questions answered.

Councilmember Martinez said there might be a small amount of spillover to Westgate from the casino, but the cost to the city outweighs that. He said he has met with Chairman Norris who gave his position and Councilmember Martinez gave his position. Chairman Norris said it was going to happen and Councilmember Martinez said he was going to do everything in his power to make it not happen, but if it did happen, Councilmember Martinez said he would sit down with the nation to work it out.

Mr. Bailey said his understanding of the conversation is there is a consensus to oppose the casino, but Council needs to gather information and do some research. There was consensus to proceed to gather information and do research. He said they will engage in a dialogue with everyone involved, including all the tribes and staff.

Councilmember Alvarez said there is no consensus to continued opposition.

Councilmember Chavira asked what they needed to do to change their opposition. Mr. Bailey said there would have to be a majority vote and a resolution would have to be passed. Councilmember Chavira said in order to do that; they would have to gather all the facts. Mr. Bailey said yes.

Councilmember Alvarez said her question is regarding the statement that there was a consensus in the Council that we oppose the casino. Councilmember Alvarez asked Mr. Bailey to give the dictionary explanation of what consensus means. Mr. Bailey said he would not know what the Webster's definition of consensus would be, but in terms of open meeting law, consensus would be a general understanding of Council to move in a specific direction. Councilmember Alvarez asked even though it isn't the majority of Council. Mr. Bailey explained that there was consensus of the Council that the city maintains its position on the casino; however staff has been authorized by Council to engage and to gather information then bring it back to them.

Councilmember Martinez said he heard there is consensus to have the dialogue and get information. He said he also heard there is consensus that they continue in opposition.

Councilmember Chavira said the city's position has been to oppose the nation, but he wanted to make sure they are moving forward with dialogue and will bring it back to Council at some point to determine how to move forward.

Councilmember Alvarez said once they get all the facts, they don't have to go by the resolution that was done before, and they have the right to change it. Mr. Bailey said yes they can change it.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The City Manager had nothing to report at this time.

COUNCIL ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Vice Mayor Knaack wanted to review the Council budgets and how they spend their money. She also wanted some discussion on use of their suite at the arena and other amenities the Council receives.

Mayor Weiers said the amount of the From the Heart donation on the water bill has been an issue. The system is unable to accept anything other than a \$1 donation. He wants the opportunity to update the system to accept \$1, \$5 or another designation. He said they owe From the Heart that opportunity.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.