

City of Phoenix
City Council Executive Session
Public Works Office
1000 S. "B" Street
Monday, July 15, 2013

DRAFT

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jeff Bellah called the executive session of the City Council to order on Monday, July 15, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Public Works Office.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Stan Bartell, Bruce Sophie, Karen Jones, Carolyn Bartell, Terry Helfrich, Chris Luz, Jeff Bellah

Staff Present: Eli Naffah, City Manager/Recorder
Marla Cates, PHURA Executive Director
Gary Welburn, PHURA Board Member
Kurt Knudsen, City Attorney

Mayor Bellah read aloud the ORS pertaining to the executive session and noted the media was not present at the meeting. Ms. Cates distributed a handout and explained that in the prior week, she spoke of Urban Renewal possibly obtaining the Steadman House and rehabilitating it and finding a new home for it. She added that part of the discussion was the possibility of purchasing the land between the Grange and City Hall to place the house there. She further explained that this would save a historic house from demolition; it would provide a permanent facility for Urban Renewal, and it would provide additional meeting room for City activities. Additionally, Ms. Cates noted this relocation of the house would provide a valuable asset when the Urban Renewal Agency comes to a close, at which time the City could take ownership and make use of the property or sell it.

Ms. Cates noted the agency has been interested in the property for over a year, explaining there has been market analysis performed, among other actions taken to prepare for purchase of the land. She further added all of the specialists in the construction field have deemed the Steadman House. Ms. Cates additionally pointed out this would be a good use of taxpayer money, as it would save Urban Renewal from having to pay rent, and it would become an asset for the City in the future. She further added she felt this project would be a good return on investment, as the total cost of the project would be approximately 2/3 of the cost for rent for the life of Urban Renewal.

Ms. Cates explained that an offer has not been made, as PHURA needed to obtain Council approval before moving forward.

As Council discussed the overall cost, Councilor C. Bartell expressed she is not comfortable with spending the money on this type of project considering the overhead for the agency, Mayor Bellah interjected with the type of questions Council should consider. He began with asking whether the property is a good buy, then asked if the property purchase was necessary to start a City Center presence there. Then the second part to examine is whether the Steadman House should be placed there.

Councilor Helfrich mentioned that the historical house would be appealing next to the Grange and it could be used for City activities. Further discussion followed, as Ms. Cates spoke about adding approximately 600 square feet to the building for more meeting space. She additionally spoke about adding more to the building, even if it was not attached to the Steadman House. Councilor S. Bartell expressed his concerns for how this historical building fits in with overall City Center Plan. Further discussion followed, as Mayor Bellah expressed the Council could decide whether they would like to recommend Ms. Cates begin the negotiation process for the purchase of the property, and vote on the purchase in open session, along with deciding in open session whether to use the property for the placement of the Steadman House. Councilor Sophie suggested Mayor Bellah inquire how many are in favor of this investment of the property. Mayor Bellah asked and the majority of the Council were in favor of the investment.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Janette Boothe
Deputy City Recorder

Steve Dahl
City Manager/Recorder