

**City of Phoenix  
City Council Meeting  
Public Works Office  
1000 S. "B" Street  
Monday, October 7, 2013**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Jeff Bellah called the Executive Session of the City Council to order on Monday, October 7, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Public Works Office.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**ABSENT:** Stan Bartell

**Staff Present:** Steve Dahl, City Manager/Recorder  
Steve Weber, Finance Director  
Kurt Knudsen, City Attorney

Called under ORS 192.660 (2)(d), conduct deliberations with the persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.

Discussion followed and no decisions were made. Executive Session recessed at 6:35 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Jeff Bellah called the regular meeting of the City Council to order on Monday, October 7, 2013 at 6:40 p.m. in the Public Works Office.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**ABSENT:** Stan Bartell

**Staff Present:** Steve Dahl, City Manager/Recorder  
Janette Boothe, Deputy City Recorder  
Derek Bowker, Chief of Police  
Steve Weber, Finance Director  
Kurt Knudsen, City Attorney

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS:**

- 1) Mayor Bellah commented he attended an ACCESS fundraiser event and noted he was impressed with the support and the funds raised.
- 2) He reported council had just finished an Executive Session regarding labor union negotiations and noted the progress with labor negotiations is going well.
- 3) He commented he attended the Harvest Parade in Talent, which prompted the idea of having a tradition in the City of Phoenix, adding that he would like to integrate the high school in some way, perhaps annually in the springtime.
- 4) He reported he attended a meeting with LOC and met with sixty other mayors and left with the impression that in many ways the City of Phoenix is lucky.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- 1) Approval of the Minutes of the September 3, 2013 Regular City Council Meeting.
- 2) Approval of the Minutes of the September 12, 2013 City Council Workshop.
- 3) Approval of the Minutes of the Septembers 16, 2013 Regular City Council Meeting/Workshop.
- 4) Acknowledgement of Minutes from the Water Task Force.
- 5) Acknowledgement of Minutes from the Parks and Greenway Commission. **MOVED BY SOPHIE, SECONDED BY C. BARTELL, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.**  
There was no further discussion.

### **ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Ayes: Sophie, C. Bartell, Jones, Chris Luz, and Helfrich**  
**MOTION APPROVED WITH FIVE AYES**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Resolution of support to initiate formation of a Jackson County Agricultural Extension Service. Phil VanBuskirk, Region Administrator for OSU- Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center, came forward to answer questions from council. Mayor Bellah requested clarification regarding the need for the resolution from each City. Mr. VanBuskirk explained in order for this item to be placed on the ballot by the County Commissioners, the requirement is all of the Cities in the County must pass a resolution stating support of the formation of a Jackson County Agricultural Extension Service. Further discussion followed, as Council noted this resolution simply allows this item to be placed on the ballot and the citizens will be able to vote on this item. **MOVED BY SOPHIE, SECONDED BY JONES, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 876 TO SUPPORT THE INITIATIVE TO FORM A JACKSON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE TO BE PLACED ON THE MAY 2014 BALLOT.** Councilor Jones and Helfrich noted how important agriculture is to the Phoenix Community. Further discussion followed.

### **ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Ayes: Sophie, C. Bartell, Jones, Chris Luz, and Helfrich**  
**MOTION APPROVED WITH FIVE AYES**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1) Appointment to Urban Renewal Board. Mayor Bellah requested Al Muelhoefer to come forward, as the Urban Renewal Board recommended him for the appointment. Mayor Bellah opened up the discussion for Council to ask any questions regarding his qualifications for the position. Councilor Sophie inquired about what Mr. Muelhoefer has to offer the Board. He briefly described his background and noted he brings new ideas and new thoughts. Additionally, he noted he would like to assist in improving the community. Councilor Luz expressed he would like Urban Renewal to focus on the downtown area. Further discussion followed, as Mayor Bellah requested a formal vote.

**ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Ayes: Sophie, C. Bartell, Jones, Chris Luz, and Helfrich**

**APPOINTMENT APPROVED WITH FIVE AYES**

- 2) Discussion on “transient tax” on residents of RV Parks over 29 days. Mayor Bellah expressed this item is meant to extend beyond residents of RV Parks; it would extend to motels as well. He further explained he would like council to discuss this item and decide whether to research this further. Mayor Bellah also inquired whether these types of residents should be charged \$20/month, instead of a \$34.00 charge that would go to the water fund. Additionally, Mr. Dahl noted staff contacted 20 different cities in Oregon to discover whether this was something done in other cities. Mr. Dahl commented that no other city contacted had this fee. Mayor Bellah added that Phoenix is one of the only cities in Oregon that does not have a user fee other than the street user fee. Further discussion followed.

Joyce Parducci, Holiday RV Park owner, came forward to request council not move forward with this item. She added these types of tenants are low income and cannot afford an additional fee. She further added she felt it was unfair to charge them to subsidize other residents in the City.

Gary Denzer, Holiday RV Park tenant, expressed he has only \$100 left after he pays his bills monthly, and that he cannot afford to live anywhere else and he doesn't feel this fee would be fair to tenants like him.

Kenneth Smith, Holiday RV Park tenant, noted he is on Social Security Benefits and cannot afford to live anywhere else and requested the City keep the fees down.

Councilor Bartell inquired why the City would move forward with this fee, if no other City in Oregon is charging this fee. Mayor Bellah replied that the City is one of the only cities not charging other user fees. Further discussion followed; as Mayor Bellah inquired whether Council feels this is item should be researched for more information. Council majority was to table this item indefinitely.

- 3) Discussion of Rogue Waste Systems 1.5% cost of living increase. Mayor Bellah open the item for discussion and described the increase proposed. **MOVED BY JONES, SECONDED BY LUZ, TO ACCEPT ROGUE WASTE SYSTEMS 1.5% INCREASE.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Ayes: Sophie, C. Bartell, Jones, Chris Luz, and Helfrich  
APPOINTMENT APPROVED WITH FIVE AYES**

- 4) Presentation of the Water Rate Study by the City Water Commission. James Snyder, Vice-Chair of the Water Commission, presented the proposed recommendation prepared by the City Water Commission. He reviewed the Water Rate Study performed by the City Water Commission and highlighted key points as he took questions from Council. Mr. Snyder explained the recommendation included two different courses of action, with three options for the second course of action; however, all proposed options include the current base rate for water users up to 5,000 gallons.

Mayor Bellah expressed this item is for discussion, as a means for the Council to inquire about the report; however, there will be no action taken until this item is brought before Council at the following meeting. Councilor Luz thanked everyone on the Water Commission for their efforts, as all were present at the meeting. Further discussion followed, as Council asked for clarification on the conclusions reached by the Water Commission. As discussion progressed, Mayor Bellah requested each of the Water Commission members to add anything from their perspective. Diana Nelson added that she would like to see the Council consider a lower rate for water users using less than 5,000 gallons, such as a lower base rate for water users from 2,000 gallons to 5,000 gallons.

Mayor Bellah inquired whether the Water Commission crunched the numbers for revenue received if the highest tier was increased further. Nancy Miller added that raising the rate for higher end water users would create the possibility of high end water users consuming less water if the charge was too high, which would reduce the overall revenue for the water fund. Mayor Bellah responded that he was referring to an increase only as large as \$.25. Ms. Miller replied that they prepared the data based on the conclusion that if the rate was too high, consumers would use less water and reduce the revenue. She added that the Water Commission is prepared to review the rates annually to ensure the rate system is providing sufficient revenue.

Mayor Bellah requested volunteers for the Water Commission, as there are three vacancies at this time.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

1) City Attorney's Report:

- a) Attorney Knudsen commented he has nothing new to report. Further discussion followed regarding the La-Z-Boy case, as Council inquired about the amount proposed by La-Z-Boy.

2) City Manager's Report:

- a) Mr. Dahl announced leaf pick up day will be on December 9, 2013.
- b) He referred to a memo he sent out regarding replacing water meters that will be presented at the following meeting.
- c) He reviewed the upcoming study sessions scheduled for the following couple of months and inquired whether Council would like to add anything. Further discussion followed, as Council discussed having a few subjects scheduled for a different night than a Council meeting, to allow enough time for the subject, such as strategic planning. Further discussion followed, as Council discussed grant possibilities.

Mayor Bellah inquired whether the Letter of Credit has been completed through Umpqua. Mr. Dahl replied that it has not; however, the City is working with Umpqua to resolve the matter.

**COUNCIL ITEMS, COMMENTS/REPORTS:**

- 1) Councilor C. Bartell thanked Councilor Jones for her efforts with the food bank.
- 2) Councilor C. Bartell inquired whether Council is interested in having a Phoenix High School student sit on Council. Mayor Bellah requested inviting a faculty member from the school to attend a Council meeting to discuss the idea further.
- 3) Councilor Sophie gave an update on the monthly MPO meetings he attends. He added the areas of major concern are the air quality and receiving updated information from state and federal regarding revenue for highway improvements.
- 4) Councilor Jones reminded everyone the Green Bag pick up is scheduled for Saturday, October 12, 2013.
- 5) Councilor Luz reminded everyone the Water Commission needs volunteers to sit on the commission.
- 6) Mayor Bellah expressed Mr. Dahl handed out a document regarding intergovernmental cooperation between Urban Renewal and the City of Phoenix. He noted he was unaware of the agreement's existence and it may assist in working together. Mayor Bellah noted this agreement requires examination by both parties and reevaluated to ensure it is properly updated.
- 7) Councilor Jones read aloud an excerpt from a document describing Urban Renewal Members as appointed public officials. Mayor Bellah requested clarification regarding the relevance of the information she provided. Councilor Jones responded by informing everyone Mayor Bellah had referred to Urban Renewal Board as not being elected members; however, Urban Renewal Board members are public officials, regardless if they were appointed or elected, just like that would have no bearing on the authority or rights as a Council member. She further added that she wanted Council to be aware before they go into discussion regarding Urban Renewal again. Councilor Helfrich added that he refers to the document often and he feels council should be aware of the information in the agreement.

The meeting recessed at 8:35 p.m.

**WORKSHOP:**

House Bill 3460-Directs Oregon Health Authority to establish registration system for medical marijuana facilities for transferring usable marijuana from registry identification cardholders.

Attorney Knudsen gave a presentation on an update regarding House Bill 3460 as he took questions from Council and members of the audience.

The workshop adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Janette Boothe  
Deputy City Recorder

Steve Dahl  
City Manager/Recorder