

City of Phoenix
Special City Council Meeting
Public Works Office
1000 S. 'B' Street
Monday, July 21, 2014

Mayor Jeff Bellah called the Special meeting of the City Council to order on Monday, July 21, 2014 at 6:07 p.m. in the Public Works Office.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Terry Helfrich

Staff Present: Steve Dahl, City Manager/Recorder
Theresa Syphers, Public Works Administrative Assistant
Heidi Otis, Public Works Utility Worker
Matias Mendez, Public Works Utility Worker
J. Ryan Kirchoff, City Attorney

Mayor Bellah read aloud a prepared statement (on file) regarding the scheduled proceedings. His introduction was followed by Attorney Kirchoff's explanation that the meeting should not include discussion of pending discipline or anticipated discipline, rather it should remain on topic of the prepared document (on file) by the public works employees. Mayor Bellah requested a staff member to come forward to present his/her grievances.

Matias Mendez came forward to explain his understanding of the on-call duties; specifically, that the Public Works Superintendent should be in the on-call duty rotation. He further expressed a grievance regarding an incident regarding locates in the prior week. Mayor Bellah inquired whether the City Manager was informed of the incident. Mr. Mendez responded that they attempted to contact the City Manager; however, the City Manager was unavailable to speak to before they were to perform the duty as requested by the Public Works Superintendent.

Theresa Syphers came forward to address Council with her concerns. She began with expressing the on-call duty rotation was to be shared by the Public Works Superintendent when he was hired. She further expressed that communication is an issue with the Public Works Superintendent.

Heidi Otis came forward to clarify some of the issues, as Attorney Kirchoff expressed the dates are important, as to its relevance. She further explained her position regarding the on-call duty rotation. She added the crew is no longer comfortable going to the City Manager to resolve issues.

Mayor Bellah inquired of each of the employees what resolution would satisfy them. Each member expressed they would like to see some type of resolution from Council, as they are at a loss as to what would be a good resolution. Further discussion followed.

Mayor Bellah recessed the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

The meeting continued at 8:41 p.m., following the regular meeting. Mayor Bellah expressed the Council heard a variety of complaints earlier, and he felt comfortable addressing the on-call issue; however, he did not feel it was appropriate for the Council to address the other complaints raised.

Attorney Kirchoff explained the legal avenues for the Council to pursue would be to ultimately defer the decision to the City Manager. Further discussion followed, as Mr. Dahl expressed his interpretation of the contract with the Public Works Superintendent regarding the on-call duty. Additional discussion followed.

Mayor Bellah suggested holding a meeting to respond to the complaints raised in the document prepared by the Public Works crew. Further discussion followed, as Attorney Kirchoff questioned the timeliness of the issues stated in the document.

EXTENSION OF MEETING:

MOVED BY SOPHIE, SECONDED BY JONES, TO EXTEND THE MEETING UNTIL 9:30 P.M. There was no further discussion.

ROLL CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:

Ayes: Luz, C. Bartell, Jones, Sophie, and S. Bartell

MOTION APPROVED WITH FIVE AYES

Continued discussion followed, as Council's consensus was to respond to each of the items stated in the document. Council scheduled a meeting to go over the response on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Janette Boothe
Deputy City Recorder

Steve Dahl
City Manager/Recorder