

City of Glendale

5850 West Glendale Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85301



Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

1:30 PM

Workshop

Council Chambers - Room B3

City Council Workshop

Mayor Jerry Weiers

Vice Mayor Ian Hugh

Councilmember Jamie Aldama

Councilmember Samuel Chavira

Councilmember Gary Sherwood

Councilmember Lauren Tolmachoff

Councilmember Bart Turner

CALL TO ORDER**Rollcall**

Present 7 - Mayor Jerry Weiers, Vice Mayor Ian Hugh, Councilmember Jamie Aldama, Councilmember Samuel Chavira, Councilmember Gary Sherwood, Councilmember Lauren Tolmachoff, and Councilmember Bart Turner

Also present were Richard Bowers, Acting City Manager; Jennifer Campbell, Assistant City Manager; Michael Bailey, City Attorney; and Pamela Hanna, City Clerk.

WORKSHOP SESSION

1. [15-290](#) COUNCIL ITEM OF SPECIAL INTEREST: NAMING OF PARKS AND PARK FACILITIES

Staff Contact: Erik Strunk, Director, Community Services

Staff Presenter: Erik Strunk, Director, Community Services

Staff Presenter: Tim Barnard, Assistant Director, Community Services

Mr. Strunk said Councilmember Aldama brought forward an Item of Special Interest on April 7, 2015, and suggested renaming Rose Lane Park to Enrique Banda Park. Mr. Strunk discussed the guidelines used to name city parks. Before continuing, Mr. Strunk introduced Tim Barnard, the new Assistant Director of Community Services.

Mr. Strunk said the city currently has no formal guidelines regarding the renaming existing city parks; it does have one for naming new city parks, called the park naming guidelines. The Community Services Department also has guidelines regarding the placement of plaques and special memorials in parks, called the plaque and amenity naming guidelines. He said the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission will initially oversee the guidelines and will make recommendations to Council, as appropriate.

Mr. Strunk discussed in further detail the park naming guideline. He said the Parks and Recreation Commission initially approved the guidelines in its December 2012 meeting. Prior to that date, no specific guidelines were followed. He said parks that were constructed in neighborhoods were named by citizen input and were fast-forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission and Council for approval. In the past, there was not a formal naming process for new parks. He said when there is a new park that is in need of a name, the department works with the Commission to identify the location of the park. The Commission then determines if the park needs a name, and a variety of methods are used to promote public participation in the naming process. He said Orangewood Vista and Heroes Regional Park were the two most recently named parks. Public input was obtained through media releases, the city website, social media, Councilmember newsletters and school flyers. He said a hotline was also set up for that process. He said they asked the public to limit their input to three areas, which included the geographic area of the proposed park, an outstanding natural, geographical or manmade feature of the park, and consideration of adjoining subdivisions, streets, school or natural features.

Mr. Strunk said it is the Commission's policy not to ask that a park be named after an individual, group event or organization, unless the land is donated or deeded to the city. The city has had occasions in the past where this has occurred. He said they also do

not want duplication of names, which leads to confusion. He said the public input phase usually lasts about two weeks. The information is then compiled and sent to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, which makes a formal recommendation to the Mayor and Council.

Mr. Strunk said recently there were requests to name a portion of a park after something or someone prominent. He said the city did not have a policy on that, and asked the Parks and Recreation Commission to review that issue. He said the Commission adopted a policy for naming park amenities and installation of memorials and plaques. He said the placement of a plaque or naming a park after a person is usually based on prominence, what they accomplished and contributed to the community. He said the Commission felt it was good to have that opportunity because there might be future requests. An amenity is defined as something within the park, a feature of the park, but would not include an enclosed structure with a ceiling and walls.

Mr. Strunk explained that memorials, plaques and tributes should benefit the general public first, with the donor or honoree as a secondary goal. He said the plaque should denote the contribution of that person, but not take away from the park itself. He said if the memorial is approved, the group or applicant requesting the memorial should pay for it and be responsible for any repair work and maintenance of that memorial. He said the Commission does take those types of requests now, and this has been added to the guidelines. If there is a future request for a plaque or amenity, there is an application process and it is reviewed by the Commission and would appear before Council for a final decision. Mr. Strunk said consideration for a plaque or amenity consists of a person, group, organization or entity with at least a ten year affiliation with the city of significant community service, involvement or contribution that has enhanced the overall quality of life and well-being of city residents, made significant contributions to the city's history or culture, made exemplary or meritorious contributions to the city or its residents, contributed to the acquisition or development and conveyance of a park or recreational land, buildings, structures or other such amenities to the city or community. He explained that is one of the criteria the Commission looks at. The applicant is asked to describe how that has occurred through the application process.

Mr. Strunk said that another criteria used by the Commission is deceased persons. In order to qualify, the person must have been deceased for at least five years, and include historic persons or national or local heroes. These individuals are characterized as having outstanding service to mankind, humankind and have gone above and beyond what is normally expected in contributing to their community. He said it is meant for a person who has attained, local, state, national recognition in parks and recreation, public safety or public health. This also requires an application process. Mr. Strunk said it would be a different policy if Council decides to rename a park, and he recommended going back to the Parks and Recreation Commission and have them work up a policy to bring back to Council for approval.

Mayor Weiers said he did not hear anything in the presentation about someone who has contributed to the arts.

Mr. Strunk said that could be covered under contribution to amenities to the city or community.

Mayor Weiers said that was important to a lot of people in the city.

Councilmember Aldama said they do not have a policy for renaming a park.

Mr. Strunk said that was correct there is no formal policy for renaming a park.

Councilmember Aldama asked how the name Rose Lane Park came about.

Mr. Strunk said the only thing he can think of is that a street section of Rose Lane butts up against the park, and he said that is typical in many smaller neighborhood parks.

Councilmember Aldama said many of those parks are named after a road, and said they need to look at a new policy to afford the opportunity for citizens to bring up names that meets the criteria. He said Rose Lane Park is unique with the pool and recreation center. He said he wanted to recognize Mr. Banda who contributed most of his life to encouraging children in the community to join city sports. He said they currently have the ability to name the softball field after Mr. Banda. He asked if there would also be a plaque if the softball field was named after Mr. Banda.

Mr. Strunk said if a group brought forward that request through the application process, the Commission would study the issue and make a recommendation. If the name change was recommended, it would then come before Council for approval.

Councilmember Aldama said he thought the Commission had already talked about this and would like to see this go back to the Commission for recommendation to rename the entire park for Mr. Banda if possible or at least the softball field. He said Mr. Banda gave his contribution to the community through youth sports.

Mr. Strunk said the city does not have a process to rename the park. An amenity, such as a sports field or a portion of the field can be renamed through the application process.

Councilmember Aldama said he was looking for consensus to name the Rose Lane softball field after Mr. Enrique Banda with a plaque. He spent most of his life encouraging kids to play softball. He feels it meets the criteria.

Mayor Weiers clarified that some groups will provide a plaque and take responsibility for that and asked Councilmember Aldama if he had a group that was willing to do that or if he was asking the city to do that.

Councilmember Aldama said he has a group who would be willing to purchase and take care of the plaque. He also said the group may be willing to adopt the park and start taking care of it.

Councilmember Tolmachoff asked if Council would be bypassing the Commission's process if they gave consensus.

Mr. Strunk said in this case, there is a group willing to move forward with this. He said they look forward to assisting them in moving through the existing process. He said if Council provided staff direction, this item would take a different tone. He said the preference would be for the group to avail themselves of the process, with staff assistance.

Councilmember Tolmachoff said by going through the Commission, they would make sure there was support in the community to do this.

Mr. Strunk said that is a part of the process.

Councilmember Turner said it seemed like the existing policy was a community ground

up process and it seemed there was community support. He said from what he has heard, Mr. Banda seemed a worthy man who made great contributions to the young people in the community. He said he would love to see the people who support this proceed with filing an application.

Councilmember Aldama said he is confident this is the wish and will of the community and was willing to give this to the Commission.

Councilmember Chavira said he supported this item, and there seemed to be two issues in the discussion. The first was to just name the softball field with a plaque and/or to change the name of the entire park from Rose Lane Park to Enrique Banda Park.

Councilmember Aldama said that was correct.

Councilmember Chavira said he just wanted to clarify the issues at hand.

Councilmember Aldama said this park is not in his district, it is Vice Mayor Hugh's district. He said he was working on this before he got elected and wanted to mention he got Vice Mayor Hugh's blessing before bringing this up.

Vice Mayor Hugh said Councilmember Aldama is correct and had interest in this when Councilmember Aldama was on the Parks and Recreation Commission. He is glad the Commission can take a look at this and make a recommendation. He said this item has a lot of public support.

Councilmember Turner would like to request that the Commission look at the distinction they have made in the past between buildings and amenities and structures versus non-structures. He said he is having a hard time seeing the distinction and would like the Commission to reconsider that. He said O'Neill Park was named after a prominent individual and there are amenities in that park that can be named, including a recreation center. He would like to see the Commission pursue further discussion about naming buildings within parks.

Mayor Weiers said the Council consensus was to move forward on this.

Councilmember Aldama said to move forward through the Commission.

2. [15-291](#)

BUDGET WORKSHOP FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

Staff Contact: Tom Duensing, Director, Finance and Technology

Mr. Duensing said staff is seeking direction on certain operating and capital budget items. He said the discussions will center around General Fund revenue, including budget impact of the West Valley Resort project, the final Primary Property Tax Levy; full-time employee overview, including new requests, diversity funding and automated book distribution machine. He also provided a quick overview of the upcoming budget calendar of important dates. He said depending on direction received today, staff will prepare the necessary schedules for tentative budget adoption on May 26th.

Mr. Duensing said some items were adjusted after the last meeting and the fund balance now stands at \$3.4 million. He said Council should be aware of the anticipated impact of the increased contribution to the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) beginning in FY16-17. He said they anticipate an additional \$4 million impact in retirement contributions to PSPRS.

Mr. Duensing said they will go over the property tax and Tohono O'odham (TO) agreement

with the city. He said in the FY15-16 budget request, they are anticipating revenues of \$1.4 million for that project. If Class 3 Gaming does not occur at that facility, the \$1.4 million will not materialize. He recommends at this point leaving it in and will continue to monitor that revenue.

Mr. Duensing went over the final Primary Property Tax Levy and provided figures showing the actual FY14-15 levy and what they have included in the recommended budget. He explained if they keep the levy flat, and don't take advantage of the available 2 percent levy increase, they would be appropriating over \$5 million. If they take advantage of the 2 percent levy increase, that levy will go up by \$108,000, which will be the maximum they can levy for FY15-16, for a total of \$5.5 million. He said he will explain what will happen down the line if they don't take advantage of the 2 percent levy. Mr. Duensing provided further slides to show the Truth in Taxation, or 2 percent, in FY15-16, which is the additional \$108,000 the city would realize if they take advantage of the 2 percent. He explained if Council chooses not to increase the levy in FY15-16 by 2 percent, in FY16-17, they have the ability to increase the levy by \$108,000.

Mr. Duensing said in addition, they can take another 2 percent on top of that. He said they can go back and make up for the amount that they did not increase the levy this year and make up for it next year, as well as take advantage of an additional 2 percent for that year as well. He said this represents approximately \$110,000. He said over the next five subsequent years, the amount of levy the city would leave on the table, if not increasing the levy, is about \$1.5 million over the five years. He said at any point during these fiscal years, they can catch up for the Primary Property Tax Levy they did not take advantage of and take advantage of the current year's levy as well. He said they can bank that, and the year the city needs it, they can levy it.

Mayor Weiers asked to repeat the \$1.5 million because the graph shows \$600,000.

Mr. Duensing said if you take all the increases over and above the flat levy and add all those together; it comes out to \$1.6 million. The first year it is \$108,000, the next year it is \$220,000, the third year it is approximately \$330,000, and so on. Adding all those years up over the five years, it comes to about \$1.6 million, cumulative over five years.

Councilmember Sherwood said in an earlier example, you used \$140,000 assessed value for the primary and didn't that come out to \$3.26.

Mr. Duensing said his next slide will show what those numbers will mean for home value at \$144,000.

Councilmember Sherwood said the point is that if they elect not to do anything for five years and do it all at one time; it is a larger hit, instead of increasing it slowly. He said the increase really isn't a great deal.

Mr. Duensing said the slide illustrates exactly that, and it shows the cumulative effect of taking advantage of the 2 percent. He provided figures showing the impact on the Primary Levy, assuming a home value of \$144,000. He said if the city chooses not to take advantage of the increase in FY15-16 and FY16-17 by keeping the levy flat, but in FY17-18 maximize the levy, the impact to a homeowner is about \$4.12.

Councilmember Turner said the impact would be the same amount whether they waited or took it every year.

Mr. Duensing said if you defer it for 2 years and then take advantage of it the third year,

you would lose approximately \$330,000 you will never see, but you can then levy the \$330,000 increase all in one year.

Councilmember Turner said to make sure he understood and said if they do not raise the levy for two years and decided to raise it in the third year, that \$330,000 they would never see again, at that time the tax impact on the \$144,000 home would be the same either way and it would still be \$4.12 if they took all three years of the levy in year 3.

Mr. Duensing said that was correct.

Councilmember Sherwood said it was money they were losing and by delaying, they were just not taking advantage of money they could be collecting now. He said it was a small amount, but every penny helps. He said he didn't want to minimize the cost to the taxpayer, but \$1.34 on a \$144,000 was not very much, and they were spending a lot of time on what they would actually collect. He said they probably want to start this right away and do the 2 percent annually.

Mr. Duensing said that is the direction they were seeking from Council and how they want to proceed on the primary property tax levy.

Councilmember Turner asked if they were going to look for consensus on the items as they move through the presentation, or hear the whole presentation and then make a decision.

Mayor Weiers said his intention was to hear the entire presentation and then bring up any issues.

Mr. Duensing next discussed the FTE overview, including new requests. He said they will also address vacancies. He provided a comparison by department of authorized FTEs from the current year to FY15-16. He went over the FTEs in each department and said there was a change in the number of positions in Finance and Technology as the Grants Administrator position moved from the Council Office to Finance and Technology. An additional position was requested in Human Resources and Risk Management, which was the internally service funded risk and safety analyst. He says a Management Assistant position is requested by the Mayor's office and 9.5 positions are requested by the Police department. Of the 9.5 Police positions, 7 of them are non-General Fund and the other 2 were included due to Police budgetary savings. Public Works requested 4 additional positions to administer the pavement management program, which are all HURF funded. The total FTE increase from FY15 to FY16 is 15.55.

Mr. Duensing provided an overview for budgeting for vacant positions. He said vacancies are typically due to retirement, resignations and terminations. The number and type of vacant positions are different at any point in time. The budget was set as of filled and vacant positions on March 4, 2015. There were 70.75 vacant FTEs in the General Fund and 68.25 vacant FTEs in the other funds. He cautioned Council about looking at vacancy savings. He said any vacancy savings would go into the fund balance, and that will help get to the budget surplus. Also, budgeting for vacant positions offsets the impact of accrued payouts. Mr. Duensing said the last estimate of the June 30, 2015 General Fund balance is approximately \$25 million, assuming a reclassification of inter-fund advance and paying off the capital lease. The city has the need to get to the 25 percent, \$50 million, within five years.

Councilmember Sherwood said they should not budget for vacancies.

Mr. Duensing said that refers to if they anticipate the total salaries for the authorized FTEs is \$100 million, for example, it is not uncommon to budget \$98 million and anticipate budgetary savings. He explained that typically is done where there is a government under distress and was done during the recession. Once things stabilized, governments typically went back to budgeting 100 percent.

Councilmember Sherwood said he understood that. He said they saw a lot of that during the downturn. He said in the bullet point where it said there were 139 current', as of March 4, 2015, vacant FTEs and we offset these by payouts, how much of that is represented in salary savings.

Mr. Duensing said he was not prepared to answer that question at this time. He said it fluctuates, depending on the vacant positions and how much turnover the city is experiencing.

Councilmember Sherwood said he was just looking for a ballpark, but probably not over 50 percent of that.

Mr. Duensing said he could not venture to guess.

Councilmember Aldama asked if it was typical for departments to use FTE vacancies for overtime and asked if the city has done that in the past.

Mr. Duensing said departments handle that in different ways. He said his department will utilize temporary services so not to lose service levels. Other departments fill that gap with overtime.

Councilmember Aldama said this was one of his concerns. He said he does not want to see the city budgeting vacancies specifically to use it for overtime. He asked how many vacancies were left over from last year. He said there may be a different way to work around those overtime issues.

Mr. Duensing said if this is a direction Council wish to go, they would need to look at the historical data, look at payouts and how many vacancies are being held each year, and look at vacancy savings. He cautioned when they are able to fill those vacancies or have higher than anticipated payouts, then it negatively affects the fund balance. He said the priority is to get to that 25 percent level, and that practice would compete directly against reaching that goal.

Mayor Weiers asked if the city was in crisis now.

Mr. Duensing said the city is not in a crisis, but is still very thin. He said the city has a stable fund balance policy and has a need to get to the stable fund balance first. Once the city gets to a 25 percent fund balance, that will take pressure off and the city will be able to do different things, such as adding additional services or budgeting for vacancy savings. He said the most important need is to get the 25 percent fund balance, to give Council flexibility in their decision making. His recommendation is to not to budget for vacancy savings.

Mayor Weiers asked if this is a good budget and is accomplishing goals the city has not been able to obtain over the last several years.

Mr. Duensing said the simple answer is yes. He said this was a difficult budget and a lot of thought has gone into it. He said they need to add services strategically, and this

budget is a good step toward getting the city to reach its goal of 25 percent.

Mayor Weiers said the city is fixing more roads than it did two years ago and the majority of employees will get pay increases and this is all a step in the right direction. He said taking this step today should help the city be in an even better place next year.

Mr. Duensing said that is correct. He said they heard loud and clear the need for pavement management. They are requesting a significant amount of appropriation to address that issue.

Councilmember Aldama asked about vacancies within departments and asked if there was a transferrable vacancy process between departments.

Mr. Duensing said the short answer is yes and said, by Charter, any budgetary transfers they do are limited to the 4th quarter of the fiscal year. He said if Human Resources brought forward a request on July 1st to move a position from one department to another moving that position could happen immediately and would then come back before Council in March for budget transfer. Councilmember Aldama said he asked this because he thought departments would come up during the budget process and justify their vacancies and budget.

Councilmember Tolmachoff said she was going to ask about this as well. She said she wanted to hear a little more about the 4 FTEs and pavement management program so she understands this a little better.

Mr. Friedline said the 4 additional FTEs are a dollar savings move. They downsized the engineering section and the design, bidding and inspection will now go to a consultant firm. After reviewing the overhead, they determined they can invest in 4 FTEs to do the very same thing. He said the long term cost is \$450,000, along with a \$75,000 one-time cost for computers and trucks, to take care of a program that will go out well past 4 years. He said this will save at least \$500,000 per year in the pavement management budget and this will allow the department to put that money out on the street for slurry seal and overlays.

Mr. Duensing said this budget request includes \$5,000 in diversity funding for internal events for employee, employee educational leadership programs and organizational memberships.

Councilmember Aldama said he had raised the issue of homeless prevention. He said he has since discovered Maricopa County has opened their shelter doors again. He asked if the city has considered adding funding to that. He said if not, is the department prepared to bring up some of their ideas as to why they didn't.

Mr. Duensing said the first part of that is there is no additional funding for homeless prevention.

Mr. Strunk said there are no General Fund monies being requested. He said for the last 6 years, they have been using their federal monies for homeless prevention and intervention. This upcoming year, they have about \$350,000 set aside and earmarked specifically to deal with the issues of homelessness. This is a 12.8 percent increase over the previous year. Since these are federal funds, there are more restrictions regarding use of those funds, but they will try and serve the homeless with that money.

Councilmember Aldama asked if the \$350,000 was available now.

Mr. Strunk said the funds are a combination of Community Development Block Grant Funds and emergency shelter grant money. He said various agencies apply for that money each year. The money is available for FY15-16. He said they encourage their individual departments to utilize this money. He said for FY16-17, they are looking at adding additional ESG funds into the CAP.

Councilmember Aldama said there are no funds available for staff to use specifically for prevention or for cleanup. He said there have been concerns from business owners about cleanup and other issues at the park. He said there is an organization that helps the homeless at Bonsall Park North, but the city is still left with costs for cleanup. He asked if it was realistic to ask for some funding to help staff to assist the homeless.

Mr. Strunk said they will bring forward recommendations for these funds at the meeting on May 12th, as well as the Five Year Consolidated Plan. Throughout that plan, there are references to homeless prevention and intervention. That is the city's guideline to spend those federal funds. If Council expresses an interest in this problem, they will continue to seek direction on how those funds should be spent. If there is interest in applying for funds for more direct intervention, they can explore that as well. Traditionally, they have relied on outside agencies to provide that level of service to the homeless.

Councilmember Aldama thanked Mr. Strunk for taking advantage of the grants. He encouraged the Council to bring back some sort of monetary amount for consideration. He said there is a need and constituents and business owners are concerned about this problem.

Mr. Strunk asked for those individuals and constituents to feel free to give him a call and he is happy to work with them. Each case of homelessness is different and services are provided on a voluntary basis, but there is no guarantee the individuals will utilize those services.

Councilmember Aldama said the grants are very important, but funds may not be available. He asked if a budgeted amount could be considered, but didn't know what a dollar amount would be.

Councilmember Tolmachoff said they do not have a facility to house the homeless in Glendale and asked if they were outsourced to the county.

Mr. Strunk said there is a domestic violence shelter in the city, but there is no homeless shelter in the city. They work with outside agencies to accommodate residents in Glendale.

Councilmember Tolmachoff said they don't want to send a homeless person in a taxi to another city. She said she would like to see homeless people transition into not being homeless, and try to break the cycle. She asked if there were community groups to help come up with a plan to get the homeless off the street for good.

Mr. Strunk said MAG does have a panel on homelessness and how communities can jointly develop programs on this issue. He said they can come back with further information to address this issue.

Councilmember Turner said he supported the comments made by Councilmember Tolmachoff and Councilmember Aldama. He said he would like to see both long and short-term efforts to resolve this problem. He asked what they can do in this budget

cycle and what should they look at for the next budget cycle to combat this problem. He suggested looking at veteran homelessness as a place to start, or determine what issues specifically affect Glendale, so they can determine the issues that need to be addressed first. He would like staff to be looking at long term efforts that will make a difference over time, but he also wants to make a difference in emergency situations for families. He was impressed with how hard the Community Action Program worked to get people to the resources they needed. He asked if a small sum, such as \$10,000, could be set aside for those situations where an action of government might create a homeless situation in the community. He provided an example of a woman on the verge of homelessness with her children who was helped by a police officer who paid for hotel stays for this family out of her own pocket. He would like to have emergency money available through the CAP program to assist these families.

Mayor Weiers said he recently met a group of refugees from South Africa who came to this country and were unable to speak the language, and heard about the difficult transition they had to live in this country. He said some of these groups are simply looking for a room where they can teach people English, which will allow them to get and hold a job. This might help alleviate the homelessness problem. He said sometimes the solution might not be that hard.

Councilmember Chavira thanked the Council for their comments. He said he is passionate about creating a policy for short term homelessness. He thanked CAP, Police and Fire who assist those affected by homelessness. He said this should be put on the Council's radar screen for further review.

Councilmember Aldama said the homeless are some of Glendale's own citizens and he spoke about McKenney-Vinto, which provided an education to homeless children, no matter where they live. He said this has been a healthy conversation.

Vice Mayor Hugh said he hoped they could come up with some funding to assist families with homelessness when it comes up without warning.

Mr. Duensing said it was his intent to work on preparing the schedules for the May 26th budget adoption meeting. He said they have set the upper limit of their spending authority, so if they choose to add a position, they would have to do that within the context of the total budget in the Tentative Budget Adoption on May 26th.

Mr. Duensing said the next item was discussion of the automatic book machine.

Mr. Strunk spoke about the automatic book distribution machine and explained that capital funds are currently not available for the Western Area Branch Library and ongoing operating funds are not available for this library. They would like to use technology to provide a library presence in an underserved area. They did apply for a grant to fund the book distribution machine. Mr. Strunk said the project cost is \$312,693 for the unit, \$251,937 for the building and additional parking. The proposed location is at Hero's Regional Park at 83rd Avenue and Bethany Home Road. This project was added to the city's five year CIP in FY14-15. Staff is currently conducting an analysis of a potential library at the Media Center. If this item is approved, staff would proceed with the RFP process and expect award of a contract in spring 2016.

Mayor Weiers said when this was first brought up, it was noted that the book distribution machine would offer 24/7 availability, but asked if the park closes at a certain time.

Mr. Strunk said the park closes at 10 p.m. and the park gates would have to be

repositioned.

Mayor Weiers asked if there was an extra expense.

Mr. Strunk said that was covered in the parking lot and building structure cost.

Mayor Weiers said the neighbors have been complaining about the parking at that location. He asked how much additional parking came with this project.

Mr. Strunk said he does not know the exact number of spaces, but it would be 35 to 40 additional spaces. He provided further explanation on where those parking spaces would be.

Mayor Weiers asked if they had looked at any partnerships, other than with the Media Center, such as with local businesses. He said several places in the area might have space available for the book machine. He thought this was a temporary solution to what they hoped would someday be a regular library. He said they had vacancies at 83rd Avenue and Camelback.

Mr. Strunk said alternative sites were considered, but they wouldn't be in their control. He said they looked at Westgate and at the police station, as well. He said they have not called any schools or store front properties. He said they thought the x-court might be a good spot and thought there might be interest in having the library at the x-court. He said this would all be part of the ongoing conversation when they brought back information later in the year regarding the Media Center.

Councilmember Chavira said they had this conversation quite a while ago. He is in favor of keeping this at Hero's Park. He explained that area was always supposed to have a library at that location. This book distribution machine would enhance the park and provide a service. This project would also provide additional parking at this location. He thanked Mr. Strunk for the presentation.

Councilmember Turner said he was not opposed to leaving this in the CIP plan, knowing more information is forthcoming, with the understanding they are not signing off on this at this time. He said if Council decides to proceed with the Media Center project, he asked if money would be available, where it would come from and if it would be available in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Strunk said there is no money earmarked in the existing CIP for the Media Center, and that would be a Council decision. He said they do have old development impact fee money that they can use for retrofitting an existing city building for library services. He said this money is for libraries only, and it's about \$4 million.

Councilmember Turner asked if they need to do anything during this budget process to assure that money is available.

Mr. Duensing said Council would adopt the recommended appropriation budget. He said they can always come back and choose to use that funding toward a different project once all the homework has been done and presented to Council. This project will not move forward without additional Council direction.

Councilmember Turner asked Mr. Duensing to make sure the money was available should the Council decide they want to move forward with a magnet library.

Mr. Duensing said if the money is appropriated, they would be able to use it for a library,

but it is Council's decision on how they choose to direct staff to proceed.

Councilmember Turner said he had constituent input about the Media Center library and the book machine, and there is concern about the location of the book machine and late night access, which needs to be discussed. He had a constituent that suggested locating the machine inside a Walmart that had light, security, parking and easy access. He said there might a commercial entity that the city could partner with to accommodate the machine. He also said it sounds like additional parking spaces are needed at Hero's Park, and new parking should be put in at the location where it best suits park users' needs. He said that many spaces might not be needed specifically for the book machine, but there clearly was a need for parking.

Mr. Strunk said that was correct.

Councilmember Tolmachoff said the cost presented does not include the cost of the books.

Mr. Strunk said it does not include the cost of the books.

Councilmember Tolmachoff asked for a total with the cost of the books.

Mayor Weiers asked if she was asking for the annual ongoing expense.

Councilmember Tolmachoff said she also wanted the initial cost to stock the machine with books.

Mr. Beck, Chief Librarian, said the cost would fluctuate, depending on Council direction, appropriation and the specific machine. He said DVDs would be cheaper than regular books, and they would use Development Impact Fees for that or General Fund monies for that.

Councilmember Tolmachoff asked if the location of the book machine would be an issue for the city as an attractive nuisance, due to the concerns about lighting or security and safety issues.

Mr. Bailey said no, but if they locate the machine at the park, they would need to undertake the capital improvements to make sure there is adequate lighting. He also said there would be park ranger presence at the park as well.

Councilmember Tolmachoff asked if security cameras were included in this project.

Mr. Beck said the machine comes equipped with cameras and there are several models that are fully enclosed or with a glass front.

Mayor Weiers asked about the actual cost, which was never addressed.

Mr. Beck said the costs would depend on the cost of materials. He asked if they were talking about the overall cost or the cost of the books.

Mayor Weiers said for the cost of the books and then the ongoing costs after that.

Mr. Beck said the ongoing expense would be about \$3,600 for power and average price of a book is about \$25, with about 3,800 books total. He explained the base model book machine starts with about 800 items. He said a ballpark estimate is about \$20,000 to

\$30,000.

Mayor Weiers said electrical expense was about \$3,600.

Mr. Beck said that was for the power and that cost was annually.

Councilmember Chavira reminded everyone that next door to the proposed location of the book distribution machine is a police substation. He said 24 hours a day, there will be a police presence in that area.

Mr. Duensing recapped his presentation by saying the request is \$3.44 million in the black. Included in the revenues is the \$1.4 million for the TO agreement, and maximizing the Primary Property Tax Levy, including the 15.55 additional positions, and an additional \$5,000 in diversity funding. He also heard additional homeless funding mentioned. He said they could choose to add an amount in or not. He said they can always identify budgetary savings down the road and move that into a line item for the CAP office, or they could go to contingency funding.

Mayor Weiers said they have From the Heart donations and have received almost double the money from citizens this year. He said there has to be people within that organization that deal with the homeless.

Mr. Duensing said he was not aware of the requests that have come in for "From the Heart", but some of those requests include homeless funding. He said they can move forward with the \$3.44 million and if a need arises, they can either identify savings within the CAP Office or identify grant funded homeless funding, or they can come back seeking Council approval for contingency funding. He said if Council decides at a future point to set aside more money for this, they can take action to move contingency funding.

Councilmember Aldama said he is open to that suggestion and would like to see consideration and funding for homeless prevention. He asked for clarification if Velma Teague Library had fewer hours of operation than the other two libraries.

Mr. Strunk said the library hours are based on usage. Velma Teague Library has the fewest hours of operation in the library system. They are open 32 hours a week. Foothills Library is open 36 hours a week and the Main Library is open 43 hours a week.

Councilmember Aldama said he has received requests from constituents to increase hours at Velma Teague Library. He said a few extra hours could be taken from the other libraries to keep Velma Teague Library open a few hours more per week. He said if this has to be budgeted, that is his request.

Mr. Strunk asked if Councilmember Aldama was looking for this fiscal year or next fiscal year.

Councilmember Aldama said it was fiscal year 15-16.

Mr. Strunk said he has asked Mr. Beck to look at hours of operation and staffing within the existing budget. He will advise Council and Mr. Duensing what the determination will be.

Councilmember Aldama asked if the decision would come back before the budget is finalized.

Mr. Strunk said the decision would not come back before the budget process is over.

Councilmember Aldama asked Council to consider an increase in hours for Velma Teague Library.

Mr. Duensing said they would have to identify the cost of that. At this late stage in the game, he recommended moving forward with the budget. He spoke with Mr. Strunk and said one additional hour at the main library would be \$55,172, one additional hour at Foothills Library is \$25,584, and one additional hour at Velma Teague is \$24,804. He said if Council directs staff to do that, it would be added into the budgetary request and brought forward on May 26th.

Councilmember Aldama asked if that was one hour per day or one single hour.

Mr. Strunk responded that this would add one additional hour per week.

Councilmember Aldama said that was not a lot to ask for the citizens, but would leave it up to the Council. He said they could save a lot of money if they just shifted a couple of hours from another library.

Vice Mayor Hugh said he was surprised at how little it cost to increase an hour and would like to see if that was possible.

Mayor Weiers clarified he was talking about adding to this budget.

Vice Mayor Hugh said yes.

Councilmember Tolmachoff asked what the total library hours for each library were per week, currently.

Mr. Strunk said it was 111 hours total.

Councilmember Tolmachoff asked if he could break that down per library.

Mr. Strunk said it was 32 hours for Velma Teague, 36 for Foothills and 43 for the Main Library.

Mr. Duensing recapped the Council's direction on Velma Teague library hours as for an additional one hour at a cost of about \$25,000, which would come back in the tentative budget request. He also said before they proceed on the automated book distribution machine, he said Council would like additional information and to take a look at other possible locations and to utilize library funding.

Council agreed.

Councilmember Sherwood said he was surprised and the length of the discussion on the budget. He said with the discussion held on April 21st on Public Safety, he is concerned about moving forward with what they have there. He said looking at the PD and the 20-20-20 and doing more proactive on the 20, budgeted at a 190 with 20 vacancies, so basically covered at 170, he said the desired number was 197. He said they still have to have the number, even though they might not get there. He said they still have the Public Safety Reserve Fund for a number of years that could cover that from a mechanical standpoint. He said on Fire, they were presented numbers that they

were experiencing response times in the 8 and 15 minutes range, and anywhere by district from 7:37 to 8:35 minutes within a square mile, worse being at 10:48 minutes. He said if we are losing brain cells starting at 6 minutes, he found that unacceptable. He asked what the fund balance was going into FY15.

Mr. Duensing said the General Fund balance was a deficit.

Councilmember Sherwood said that is what he thought and asked if it was about \$3.2M.

Mr. Duensing said the total overall General Fund balance was actually negative 2M.

Councilmember Sherwood said he agreed the fund balance has to get up there beyond 25 percent. He said the goal is to hit the 25 percent in 5 years. He said they have the PSPRS. He said they are going from 3.2 M to 25.4 M in one year, which is 13 percent of the 25 percent that they are trying to get to. He said if a fire unit, which is a one-time cost of \$700,000 for the truck and 15 people at \$2.1M for a total of \$2.8 M, if they were to put that in there, it would reduce the General Fund balance by \$2.8 M and would take the percent down from 13.2M to 11.4M, or 1.4 percent. He said they are still growing the fund balance. He said they need to increase the fund balance and once they get to the initial goal of 25 percent, they need to start thinking about the City Sales Tax and getting that back down to where it was. He said they need to have a conversation on that. He said typically, they would have that Public Safety conversation up front, before they even got into the budget. He said if Fire was allowed to present something, they need about 4 units over the next 5 years just to get back to close to optimum response time. He liked what they were doing with the budget, but he felt this was a conversation they needed to have. They all support Public Safety, but he does not see the budget doing justice to that.

Councilmember Chavira said he agrees with Councilmember Sherwood's comments, and he hoped to get consensus to look at this. He would like to give this the attention it deserves.

Councilmember Aldama said he supported this as well. He said they had a great conversation at the Public Safety meeting, but it lacked a request for an amount to build into the budget. He supports having that conversation now. If funding helps the response times, they are only helping the citizens. He supports Fire and Police, and wanted the dollar amounts to show it.

Councilmember Turner said Council supports Public Safety and the quality of life for their residents. He was under the impression that there was only about \$100,000 to \$200,000 in play, and now they were talking about big money. He is not comfortable making those types of decisions at this point in the budget process. He is anxious about what they do about Police and Fire needs over the next few years. He said they did not redefine the advances to become transfers so that money came into play for services, but that is what is being proposed today. He said the conversation they previously had was for the long term financial benefit of the city. He is concerned about digging into that money for services. He said they haven't gotten to the individual wish lists, but if they are going to talk about library hours and the other items on everyone's list, such as code enforcement inspectors and accident investigators. He said he supports Fire and Police and that is a comprehensive conversation they need to have and lay out a strategic plan over a number of years, rather than what they are going to do this moment.

Councilmember Tolmachoff said she was concerned about dipping into the savings account when they haven't even realized the savings yet. She said the reason for

reclassification of the inter-fund advance was to have the reserves to boost the ratings and save the city money so it puts the city in a better position. She worries about compromising the city by dipping into those reserves right now.

Mr. Duensing said when Police and Fire presented their information, he said they noted there may be a need for additional services and the collective recommendation was to increase services strategically. He said they would be prepared to come back at any point and have those discussions. He said they would not be light discussions. He said by not increasing the pie, if they increase Police and/or Fire Services; they are reducing services somewhere else. He said they need to set aside money in the emergency fund first, before they start increasing the size of the pie, and he said that was the collective thought from all the departments and staff.

Vice Mayor Hugh agreed with the comments and said they need to have those conversations. Those conversations will be a few months away and they need to start with a plan so they can increase it. He said citizens complained about the lack of patrols in their neighborhood and were told the police officers don't have time to do patrols anymore by the Police Department. He said there are problems in both sectors of public safety that need to be resolved. The budget does not allow for much flexibility right now.

Mayor Weiers said they are doing patrols, but they are running so far behind, they don't get to patrol areas as much as they would like to.

Assistant Chief St. John said the officers are always on patrol, whether responding to calls for service or on calls for service. He said officers are instructed when driving to and from calls for services to get off the major roadways and get into the neighborhoods, which provides visibility to the public.

Vice Mayor Hugh said that was the question the citizens had. He said the officers weren't free to do patrol as much as they would like to be.

Assistant Chief St. John said in their last presentation, they talked about the amount of time officers spend on calls and they see officers responding very well to high priority calls, but officers are breaking from lower priority calls to get to the higher priority calls. He said there are times of the day when officers are very busy with calls for service and they are not just driving through the neighborhoods. He reiterated they are directed to drive through neighborhoods while responding to calls so they are a visible presence.

Councilmember Tolmachoff asked about 25 percent increase in calls from last year to this year.

Assistant Chief St. John said total calls went from 130,000 to 154,000, which is about 22 percent.

Councilmember Tolmachoff said that was a lot of calls.

Councilmember Chavira thanked Assistant Chief St. John for letting the public know they are on duty 24/7. He said the weather is getting nice and the 6 minutes includes dispatch time and travel time. He said this is a double edged sword as there are so many people out enjoying the weather, but they go to heat related emergencies at this time of year. He spoke about a little girl in the east valley who died when a pool swing broke. He said the investment they make in public safety will be an investment in saving someone's life.

Mr. Duensing said next step is the May 26th Tentative Budget adoption, which includes policies, a policy to continue transfers from the General Fund to the Enterprise Funds, a policy of combining the sub-funds, the CIP carry forward at approximately \$51M. He said June 9th is the public hearing for the Property Tax Levy and Final Budget adoption. June 23rd will be final property tax adoption. He said the discussions they have had today regarding service levels and staff will come back with discussion on how to approach this strategically. He complimented the budget staff for their incredible effort they have made to put the budget together.

Mayor Weiers asked the budget staff to stand for recognition. Those present stood.

Mr. Duensing said the staff of 3 does the work of a staff of 10. He said every single department stepped up and they stepped up as a city. They understand the concept of services and the making the budget work. He also said Mr. Bowers understood the issues and appreciated his input.

Mayor Weiers said there was consensus to move forward.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Acting City Manager Bowers had nothing to report.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Bailey had nothing to report.

COUNCIL ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Councilmember Aldama said library hour's opening time at 1 p.m. works in the winter and spring, but residents around Velma Teague walk to the library and he asked if staff can research opening the library sooner in the summer hours.

Councilmember Sherwood said he wanted to look into PD's funding and staffing problems so they don't have the large number of unfilled positions. He also asked to see a plan from Fire that gets them back to preferred response times, and how long that would take.

Mayor Weiers said he wants to take a very in depth and comprehensive look at Fire next year and come up with a plan that is not going to hurt the city financially. He said sometime they will need the Fire Department and want their loved ones to be safe. He would like to see a plan of attack.

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council moved into Executive Session at 3:52 p.m.