City Council
of the
City of Las Cruces

Regular Meeting

February 17, 2015
1:00 P.M.
Council Chambers, City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT:	**STAFF:**
Mayor Ken Miyagishima	Robert Garza, City Manager
Councillor Miguel Silva, District 1	Rusty Babington, City Attorney
Councillor Greg Smith, District 2	Esther Martinez-Carrillo, City Clerk
Councillor Olga Pedroza, District 3	
Councillor Nathan Small, District 4	
Councillor Gill Sorg, District 5	
Councillor Ceil Levatino, District 6	

DRAFT

I. OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor Miyagishima called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence. Councillor Levatino led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Miyagishima and a representative from the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley presented the Pet of the Week.

Councillor Levatino presented a Proclamation to Rocio Alfaro and declared the month of February as Children's Oral Health Care Month.

Councillor Levatino presented a Proclamation to Theresa Armendariz and declared February 2015 as Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

Councillor Levatino presented a Proclamation to David Jacquez and declared February 2015 as the For the Love of Art Month.

Councillor Levatino presented a Proclamation to Diana Archuleta and declared February 17, 2015 as In Memory of Representative Phillip Archuleta Day.

Councillor Levatino presented a Proclamation to Pablo Martinez and declared February 15th thru February 21, 2015 as National LULAC Week.

II. CONFLICT OF INTEREST INQUIRY BY MAYOR AS REQUIRED BY LCMC SECTION 2-27(E)(2). *At the opening of each council meeting, the chairperson shall ask if any member of the city council, city manager, or any member of the city staff has any known conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.*

Mayor Miyagishima asked if anyone had any conflicts with anything on the agenda?

There were no conflicts.

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III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rebecca Wiggins and Liz Anichini, La Semilla gave an overhead presentation regarding updates on their Edible Education Program.

Russ Smith, Member of the Public said I want to say "thank you" for the 2014 progress with Project Main Street and the Chile Drop. We have seeds of ideas for future Main Street events and for the upcoming Plaza so perhaps we can do an MOU between Project Main Street and the City of Las Cruces to help us form more coordination, organization and future ideas.

Mayor Miyagishima said we will give the MOU idea to management and let it work through the system.

George Pearson, Member of the Public said I want to thank the City staff for their help with the Bicycle Friendly application which has already been submitted and we hope to see some results in the next two or three months. I would like to ask that during your next budget cycle that you formalize a policy that some percentage is assigned the duty of Bicycle Coordinator for the City of Las Cruces. Also, there was a challenge issued at the Conference of Mayors to help improve bicycle facilities around the United States so I would hope that you'd consider joining that challenge.

Mayor Miyagishima said the Federal level and sometimes the State level is asking the City level to step it up so we have accepted the Mayors challenge regarding Veteran homelessness and hopefully we'll get that done in about two or three months. I don't want to do too many challenges at once so after that I will look into the bicycle challenge.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA: THOSE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INDICATED BY AN ASTERISK (*) ARE ON THE CONSENT AGENDA AND WILL BE VOTED ON BY ONE MOTION.

Mayor Miyagishima said Items 3 and 5 need to be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

Councillor Smith Moved to Approve the Agenda as Amended and Councillor Small Seconded the motion.

Mayor Miyagishima called for the roll on the Motion to Approve the Agenda as Amended and it was Unanimously Approved. 7-0

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V. RESOLUTION(S) AND/OR ORDINANCE(S) FOR CONSENT AGENDA

*(1) Resolution No. 15-143: A Resolution Approving the Issuance of a Waiver of the Church/School Distance Restriction for a Public Celebration Permit Application From High Desert Brewing Company for an Event at the Museum of Nature and Science, 411 North Main Street, to be Held on Friday, February 27, 2015.

*(2) Resolution No. 15-144: A Resolution Authorizing High Desert Brewing Company to Continue With the Permitting Process to Allow for the Sale and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages Within a Restricted and Secured Area for an Event at the Museum of Nature and Science, 411 North Main Street, to be Held on Friday, February 27, 2015.

*(4) Resolution No. 15-146: A Resolution Approving a Roadway Lighting and Signalization Maintenance Agreement Between the City of Las Cruces and the New Mexico Department of Transportation to Provide for the Maintenance of Roadway Lighting Along Interstate 25, at the Missouri Overpass, Missouri, Triviz, and Don Roser, Along With Signalization at the Missouri / Triviz and Missouri / Don Roser Intersections, NMDOT Control No. LC00100.

VI. RESOLUTION(S) AND/OR ORDINANCE(S) FOR DISCUSSION

*(3) Resolution No. 15-145: A Resolution Approving Relocating the Camino Real Statues Along the Walkway West of Thomas Branigan Memorial Library.

Councillor Silva Moved to Approve Resolution No. 15-145 and Councillor Smith Seconded the motion.

Councillor Silva said I would like to have a short history on these statues and how did we come to the decision of placing them at their particular location?

Mark Johnston, Parks and Recreation Director gave an overhead presentation and said the statues were removed during the Main Street construction process and the pieces have been stored for the past few years. We have been working with the Art Board for the past 16 months and they suggested four locations for these statues which we discussed with Council at a recent work session. The resolution today approves the new location of these statues at the walkway west of Thomas Branigan Memorial Library and the thought process is to put concrete down and make it mimic the trail with shoe prints, boot prints, and wagon wheel tracks. The next steps are the statue restoration and the designing process which may be in-house or we may hire a consultant; then we'll present it to staff and modify if needed and then present it to the Art Board and do a final design. After the final design then we will develop the construction documents and we are estimating construction to begin sometime between January and March of next year.

Councillor Silva said hopefully a plaque of some type can be placed at the site to recognize the artists and the art community.

Councillor Smith said there is a plaque at the corner of Las Cruces and Main Street that should be reunited with the statues at some point. Will the wagon also be reunited with the others during this process?

Mark Johnston said yes, but I have a little bit of concern with the wagon because it is a wood product and it is quite old so I'm projecting that we'll possibly build a lean-to over the top of it to help protect it from the elements.

Mayor Miyagishima called for the roll on the Motion to Approve Resolution No. 15-145 and it was Unanimously Approved. 7-0

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*(5) <u>Resolution No. 15-147:</u> A Resolution Authorizing the Application for 2015/2016 Local Government Road Fund with the New Mexico Department of Transportation for the Solano Drive Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.) Improvements Project.

Councillor Small Moved to Approve Resolution No. 15-147 and Councillor Smith Seconded the motion.

Louis Grijalva, Project Development Administrator gave an overhead presentation and said annually the NMDOT sends out letters to municipalities asking for projects and we have been fortunate to get money for the past ten years or so. There would be a 25% match by the City and projects that most effectively serve the needs of the public have the best chance of being funded. The selected project must be designed and constructed by December 31, 2016. Staff has identified Solano Drive ADA Improvements from Cactus Street to Mulberry Avenue Project as having the best chance of obtaining the grant from NMDOT. It would include replacing sidewalks, drive pads and ADA ramps and would be a continuation of the current ADA project along Solano Drive. The total project cost would be $110,000 which NMDOT's share would be $82,500 and the City's match cost would be $27,500.

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Mayor Miyagishima called for the roll on the Motion to Approve Resolution No. 15-147 and it was Unanimously Approved. 7-0

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(6) Resolution No. 15-148: A Resolution Relating to Comprehensive Tax Reform For Municipalities; Calling on The New Mexico State Legislature to Take Immediate Action on Tax Reform Initiatives to Bring Balance, Equity and Financial Stability to Municipal Governments.

Councillor Smith Moved to Approve Resolution No. 15-148 and Councillor Sorg Seconded the motion.

Councillor Sorg Moved to Suspend the Rules and discuss Items 6 and 7 concurrently and Councillor Smith Seconded the motion.

Mayor Miyagishima called for the roll on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and discuss Items 6 and 7 concurrently and it was Unanimously Approved. 7-0

Robert Garza, City Manager gave a verbal presentation and said Santa Fe has passed similar resolutions in late December and they have asked other similar situated cities like ours to join them in making some statements to our legislature about taxing authority. So Item 6 is basically asking our legislature to undertake a comprehensive tax reform within the State of New Mexico and Item 7 deals with taxing limitations that are imposed on home ruled municipalities.

Councillor Sorg said not all municipalities are the same so it is very important that we pass these two resolutions.

Councillor Pedroza asked who would be bringing our concerns to regarding Item 6?

Robert Garza said this is something that is going to take about two to three years; it's not something that is going to happen during the 2015 session and we have our lobbyists in Santa Fe to keep us informed.

Councillor Pedroza said regarding Item 7, what are the specific tax limitations that are imposed on us?

DRAFT

Robert Garza said the tax limitations that are imposed on the City vary with the various bills and the various issues that they are taking up.

Councillor Levatino said I don't have any particular concerns about Item 6 but Item 7 does concern me because I'm sure that it is accurate that the community does get to decide on whether or not their taxes are raised.

Councillor Smith asked are there any downsides that we should be aware of?

Robert Garza said there is always a risk at having the City Council talking as a group to the legislature as a group. These are just sending them messages and there is nothing binding about them. It's just your opinion and they pretty much will be expired after this session is over.

Councillor Silva said I know that the Municipal League has been discussing tax reform for some time and I have been a proponent of it for a while. We not only need to look at how this affects us as a municipality but also how it affects us regionally. When was the last time the State did this type of endeavor?

Robert Garza said I don't believe they have ever done a complete tax overhaul.

Councillor Sorg said what concerns me the most is that we are allowing people outside our city to decide what we should do in Las Cruces. It's not a matter of putting a limit on taxes but how we are taxed and I see this resolution will try to promote that.

Councillor Levatino said I don't think if we take out the words "taxing limitations" from Item 7 that it will really change anything. We can change the wording but the body of the resolution is still very specifically asking the legislature to allow us to impose whatever taxes we want in whatever form we want without any ceilings.

Robert Garza said I just spoke with Rusty and he suggests that we change the word "remove" and replace it with the word "evaluate". So we would be asking the State to evaluate the taxing limitations for home ruled municipalities like us.

Councillor Levatino said for me, the wording of this resolution would have to be changed dramatically for me to be able to approve it.

Councillor Small said I think the focus of them seeing home ruled municipalities as separate from others is important. I would suggest that maybe we should table Item 7 and fine tune the language.

Councillor Smith said the further back we push this the less likely they will review it so I suggest we move forward with both of them as they are written.

Councillor Sorg said I agree with Councillor Smith but if you are going to change the language then I would like it to have not necessarily the amount of taxation but the kinds of taxation.

Councillor Silva said I also agree with Councillor Smith; the sooner the better and I would suggest that we act on this today.

Councillor Small said I agree with the amendment to remove the word "remove" and replace it with "evaluate" throughout Resolution 15-149.

Councillor Pedroza said I think we do need to make our thoughts known and I'd agree with the minor word change.

Mayor Miyagishima called for the roll on the Motion to Approve Resolution No. 15-148 and it was Unanimously Approved. 7-0

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(7) Resolution No. 15-149: A Resolution Calling on the New Mexico State Legislature to Take Immediate Action During the 2015 Legislative Session to Enact Legislation That Would Remove the Taxing Limitations Currently Imposed on Home Rule Municipalities.

Councillor Smith Moved to Approve Resolution No. 15-149 and Councillor Sorg Seconded the motion.

Councillor Small Moved to Amend Resolution No. 15-149 to strike the word "remove" from the title, the 3rd Whereas, and in paragraph Roman Numeral One (I) and replace it with the word "evaluate"; and Councillor Pedroza Seconded the motion.

Councillor Smith said this doesn't read in a comfortable way for me. I would suggest that perhaps instead of saying "take immediate action and amend State Law" say "take immediate action and evaluate State Law". Otherwise, we would be asking them to take legislative action to evaluate and I'm not sure that is really something that would be very productive for us to ask them to do.

Councillor Small said I do think it is acceptable to ask legislation to evaluate the local taxing authority and this amendment will hopefully be one that we'd be comfortable with sending this message to our legislature.

Councillor Sorg said by changing the language, would that be seen as not being in harmony with the other home ruled chartered municipalities?

Robert Garza said I would say no.

Mayor Miyagishima called for the roll on the Motion to Amend Resolution No. 15-149 to strike the word "remove" from the title, the 3rd Whereas, and in paragraph Roman Numeral One (I) and replace it with the word "evaluate"; and it was Approved. 6-1 Councillor Silva, Councillor Pedroza, Councillor Small, Councillor Sorg, Councillor Smith and Mayor Miyagishima voted Aye. Councillor Levatino voted Nay.

Councillor Small Moved to Amend Resolution No. 15-149 in Roman Numeral (I) paragraph to strike "have independent taxing authority" and replace with "be heard"; and Councillor Pedroza Seconded the motion.

Councillor Silva said I would suggest that you just end it at home ruled municipalities.

Councillor Sorg said that would leave something out; home ruled municipalities what?

Councillor Small said the amendment is: THAT the City of Las Cruces hereby calls on the New Mexico State Legislature to take immediate action during the 2015 Legislative Session to enact legislation that would evaluate the taxing limitations currently imposed on home rule municipalities.

Mayor Miyagishima called for the roll on the Motion to Amend Resolution No. 15-149 THAT the City of Las Cruces hereby calls on the New Mexico State Legislature to take immediate action during the 2015 Legislative Session to enact legislation that would evaluate the taxing limitations currently imposed on home rule municipalities and it was Approved. 6-1 Councillor Silva, Councillor Pedroza, Councillor Small, Councillor Sorg, Councillor Smith and Mayor Miyagishima voted Aye. Councillor Levatino voted Nay.

Mayor Miyagishima called for the roll on the Motion to Approve Resolution No. 15-149 as Amended and it was Approved. 6-1 Councillor Silva, Councillor Pedroza, Councillor Small, Councillor Sorg, Councillor Smith and Mayor Miyagishima voted Aye. Councillor Levatino voted Nay

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(8) Resolution No. 15-150: A Resolution Identifying a Partnership Between the City of Las Cruces and Downtown Las Cruces Partnership to Create a Municipally-Authorized Arts and Cultural District.

Councillor Smith Moved to Approve Resolution No. 15-150 and Councillor Sorg Seconded the motion.

David Weir, Community Development Director gave an overhead presentation and said the State Legislature passed a law that allowed either a state designated cultural district or a self designated cultural district. The resolution before you is to self designate a cultural district and proposing to formalize a partnership between the City and the Downtown Las Cruces Partnership to explore options to create an Arts and Cultural District.

Councillor Smith said I do believe that when the State does recognize these districts there will still be some kind of recommendation or requirement that it is both the Downtown Main Street Organization and that community's Art Council that need to work together; correct?

David Weir said I believe you are correct. The intent is to follow the State designation process.

Councillor Smith said I do support this effort. We have some great artists in this community and I encourage us to move forward with this.

Councillor Levatino asked do we have an idea on what the boundaries will be for the Art District?

David Weir said today, we are asking that we move forward with the designation so the boundaries will be defined during that process.

Councillor Silva asked what are the benefits of an Arts and Cultural District?

David Weir said one of the benefits is to celebrate that you have a vibrant art and cultural element in your community and it gives you marketing opportunity. It also puts us in a position that if the State funds their program then there would be an opportunity for funding to provide even more promotion to the City of Las Cruces.

Councillor Silva said as I recall, in the past that was one of the benefits that the State did have funding for Arts and Cultural Districts but now there is no funding. Today's action is just establishing moving forward to establish an Arts and Cultural District without setting any boundaries yet and I'm assuming the next step would be to go back to the Arts Board or Committee and then they could come back with 15 different locations; correct?

David Weir said the intent was to start at the core of the city but if there were, through the efforts of the task force, identifying of other areas that had true significance then they could make that recommendation but I think most of their efforts will be concentrating on the center of town.

Councillor Silva asked will the DLCP be in the drivers seat in establishing the Arts and Cultural District?

David Weir said DLCP would have the leadership role but it has been a collaborative effort and even the Doña Ana Arts Council and several departments within the city have been participants. I think it would still be a very collaborative effort because of the relationship with Main Street and the requirements of the State standards for a Cultural District.

Susan Frary, Member of the Public said I was the descending vote on the Art Board for this resolution and I would ask that you amend this resolution or table it and bring it to a work session. I have submitted a handout to you about background information and as of right now there have been three different Arts and Cultural District preliminary development type plans done and those all would have fit within the State requirements. If you join the State's Art and Cultural District Program, there are benefits to the program that we would not be eligible for if we self designate. If we choose to self designate then we should think big and go for the full option that allows which would be similar to what Santa Fe did by having three separate Art District overlays. I am supportive of Las Cruces having an Arts and Cultural District but I'm not sure that this resolution is going to give us the best that this city can get and I really want us to get the best.

Councillor Small said the most concerning thing is this issue of perhaps spending more time on the municipal authorized verses State authorized and I would like to have some feedback at this time because we are giving our go ahead to go forth.

Councillor Silva said we have been at this way too long and I appreciate that the Downtown Partnership is willing to take the lead and make it a priority. I think what we are passing today basically is something that says we are going to identify a district and I think everyone is on the page right there. It makes sense to have work sessions to discuss the boundaries but I have full confidence in those persons who are involved with the board discussions.

David Weir said the resolution before you today is not the creation of an Arts and Cultural District; basically it is saying that you support an investigation of this, you support staff beginning the efforts and working with various groups Downtown and once a recommendation is brought forward then a whole new resolution will come forward.

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Brian Denmark, Assistant City Manager said then the next step would be to pursue State designation; correct?

David Weir said that is correct. The intent is not to put ourselves in a position where we won't be eligible for a State project so this one designates an Arts and Cultural District for the city and also gives us some background in case we want to purse State designation then we'd have that ability.

Councillor Smith said it has always been my understanding that we could self designate and later go to the State designation; is that correct?

David Weir said that is my understanding.

Councillor Silva said I would suggest that at the point where districts are identified that we'd potentially have a work session and an extension of that would be some kind of public input or community meetings held to inform the city and allow them to put some input in it.

Mayor Miyagishima said that is a good idea.

Irene Oliver Lewis, Member of the Public said I am a member of the task force for the Arts and Cultural District and you can't become State designated until they designate you so we looked at local authorization because there is no State available right now but that doesn't mean that there won't be some in the future. If you do become State designated then that would only be for the Downtown area so we couldn't designate the Mesquite District, Mesilla Park, or the Cultural Corridor toward the University which are all areas that the committee has looked at over the past seven years. We are asking that you allow us to move forward with looking at the process so I ask that you approve this resolution at this point.

Councillor Levatino said my concern is that there is so many components of this that I don't think we've considered so I really would like to see this perhaps taken off the agenda or as long as we can vote on this but it doesn't preclude us from doing a work session and making sure that we've considered all the different components. This is so important to Las Cruces and I want to make sure that we are doing it right.

Councillor Small said I agree with Councillor Levatino and this is a very important driver for our community.

Councillor Smith said I am absolutely comfortable with moving forward with this with the understanding that we can, through work sessions, committees, and others; get something moving forward that is going to be critically important to this community. I do think that starting small does help us because if we spread out too much from the beginning, we may make this a little harder to get started.

Councillor Pedroza said I am a little confused so I think it would be best if we discuss this issue at a work session.

DRAFT

Mayor Miyagishima said I do suggest that we move forward with this today since this is just a resolution.

Mayor Miyagishima called for the roll on the Motion to Approve Resolution No. 15-150 and it was Unanimously Approved. 7-0

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(9) Resolution No. 15-151: A Resolution Establishing Fees Authorized in Las Cruces Municipal Chapter 7 Entitled Animal Control Ordinance, and Replacing all Animal Related Fees Previously Approved by Council or Developed and Used by Staff with the New Fees.

Councillor Small Moved to Approve Resolution No. 15-151 and Councillor Sorg Seconded the motion.

Marcy Driggers, Utilities Attorney gave a verbal presentation and said this is an extension of the recently approved Animal Ordinance and a section of it authorizes Council to set fees with a separate City Council resolution which is why we are bringing forward this resolution. These fees are not set in stone; the attachment for the fees is included in your packet and these are fees that the Animal Control section felt were reasonable.

Councillor Small asked is it authorized or required to have a dangerous dog charge?

Marcy Driggers said it is required by State statute in the Dangerous Dog Act.

Office Chavez, Codes said it is a long court process to deem a dog as dangerous.

Councillor Levatino said I don't have the section that Marcy was referring to in my packet.

Councillor Smith said the copy in the agenda online I think is abridged from what you are sharing with us.

Councillor Silva said we only have about a page and a half of the three pages you are presenting so I would suggest that we table this until the next meeting.

DRAFT

Councillor Silva Moved to Table Resolution No. 15-151 until the next Council meeting and Councillor Small Seconded the motion.

Mayor Miyagishima called for the roll on the Motion to Table Resolution No. 15-151 to the March 2, 2015 Council Meeting and it was Unanimously Approved. 7-0

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(10) Resolution No. 15-152: A Resolution Authorizing the Application for 2015/2016 Municipal Arterial Program Fund With the New Mexico Department of Transportation.

Councillor Small Moved to Approve Resolution No. 15-152 and Councillor Levatino Seconded the motion.

Loretta Reyes, Public Works Director gave an overhead presentation and said this resolution is to authorize us to apply for NMDOT Municipal Arterial Program funding. Typically the maximum amount of funding is $500,000 and there is a 25% City match. The three potential projects identified are the Amador Avenue and Melendres Street Traffic Signal and Median Improvements; the Walnut Street Resurfacing and ADA Improvements from Mandy Lane to Spruce Avenue; and the Don Roser Drive Reconstruction and ADA Improvements from Terrace Drive to Missouri Avenue.

Councillor Smith said I'm curious about the traffic on all three of these. I know traffic has increased on Don Roser since it connected to University but I believe of the three, the two with the most traffic are Walnut at Lohman and Melendres at Amador; is that correct?

Loretta Reyes said that is correct.

Councillor Smith said there are also safety concerns with the Amador situation so I would lean toward that project and my second choice would be the Walnut project.

Councillor Small asked if the traffic signal was put on Amador, would it be timed with the other traffic signals on Amador?

Loretta Reyes said yes.

Councillor Small said the Amador project certainly rises to the top for me and the Walnut project would be my second choice.

Councillor Pedroza said in the future, I suggest that we look at re-striping and putting roundabouts at intersections; but that being said, my first choice is the Amador project and my second is Walnut.

Councillor Sorg said I also pick the Amador project and I would also encourage us to look at putting roundabouts at these intersections.

Councillor Silva said it was mentioned to me that putting in this traffic signal would increase traffic to the neighborhoods in that area so that is something that we'll have to keep an eye on. I would also suggest that maybe we can have a work session to discuss roundabouts.

Councillor Levatino said I would select the Amador project because it is a safety issue and I would also support discussing roundabouts for traffic calming.

Councillor Small Moved to Amend Resolution No. 15-152 to insert the Amador Melendres Project (Project #1) and Councillor Smith Seconded the motion.

Mayor Miyagishima called for the roll on the Motion to Amend Resolution No. 15-152 to insert the Amador Melendres Project (Project #1) and it was Unanimously Approved. 7-0

Mayor Miyagishima called for the roll on the Motion to Approve Resolution No. 15-152 as Amended and it was Unanimously Approved. 7-0

VII. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

There were no board appointments.

VIII. NOTICE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE(S) ----- *1.) There will be no public discussion. 2.) A councillor may ask staff for clarification on the proposed ordinance(s).*

(11) Council Bill No. 15-028; Ordinance No. 2747: An Ordinance in Accord with the City of Las Cruces Local Economic Development Plan, Authorizing the City of Las Cruces to Act as Fiscal Agent for a Local Economic Development Act Project Known as the Franco Whole Foods - Southwest LLC Project.

Mayor Miyagishima and Council agreed to bring this item back.

IX. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER BOARD REPORTS

There were no City Council member board reports.

X. GENERAL DISCUSSION

a.) Mayor

Mayor Miyagishima said I want to remind everyone that the State of the City Address is tomorrow at 12:15 p.m.

I would like to thank Brian Denmark for his 29 years of service with the City. Las Cruces is a better place because of you.

Regarding the City of Las Cruces Legislative "Thank You"; I understand there are three or four of you going and I would like to volunteer to drive if you want, unless you are all driving separate cars.

Councillor Smith said a couple of us are also going to the Municipal League Day so we are leaving the day before.

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b.) City Council

Councillor Smith said I also want to thank Mr. Denmark for his decades of service to the City.

Councillor Levatino said I echo the thanks to Mr. Denmark and it has been an absolute joy to work with him.

Councillor Levatino read the memorial that was read on the Senate Floor during the Las Cruces Day in Santa Fe and said I would like to thank the Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce for all their work in putting together Las Cruces Day.

DRAFT

I also want to wish a happy birthday to Mr. Winson and Councillor Silva.

Councillor Sorg said I also want to thank Mr. Denmark for his service.

Councillor Small said I want to thank Brian Denmark for his service and his engaging in a positive way all the different things that folks don't often see in the different hats that he wears.

It was predicted that there would be mega droughts for the next 30 years in the southwest and that is something that we all need to grapple with. There are a few work sessions coming up regarding energy which are a small part in how we address the monumental challenges that we face as a world.

I want to thank Jamey Rickman for helping Tamika with some time sensitive safety issues that recently came up in some neighborhoods.

We're setting a work session regarding the Convention and Visitors Bureau taking over the Film Festival and I think we need to include our Film Liaison Officer and also discuss film infrastructure. I also think we need to have this work session prior to us setting our budget because of the possible budgetary issues that we'll need to address.

Robert Garza, City Manager said CVB is in the process of doing their assessment and as soon as that is completed then I will schedule a work session. I will try to have it around the time that we discuss the budget.

Councillor Pedroza said we will all miss Brian; he has taught me a lot and he does such good work.

There is going to be a three day conference on economic equality and it begins this Thursday at the First Christian Church on El Paseo Road.

I read an article titled "The Shockingly Effective" and it was about a way to fix homelessness.I thought it was a very interesting article and I offer it to anyone who would like to read it.

June 20th is the NAACP Juneteenth celebration at Hotel Encanto. It will be a two day event and on one day there will be a Health Fair and the next day there will be a Job Fair.

There are three students, the principal and a teacher at Loma Heights Elementary School who are doing some serious community service work for the cemetery that is right next door to their school. This cemetery use to be the only one where blacks were able to be buried at and it has fallen in disrepair. They have raised money and volunteers to help with this cemetery and I have asked them to come and give us a little presentation on their project.

I wanted to thank Mark because I think Las Cruces has come many steps forward with Community Gardens and that is a very good thing for our citizens.

Councillor Levatino left the meeting at approximately 5:19 p.m.

Councillor Silva said it is very good news that I-25 Studio is looking into potentially investing in Las Cruces.

I want to thank Brian Denmark for all his work with the City and it has always been a pleasure to work with him.

I also want to compliment the Chamber of Commerce on their work on the Las Cruces Day project.

There has been talk about the County imposing a 3/8 tax and the impact of that on our city residents would be that they would be paying double taxes. I think we need to keep that in mind during discussions with our colleagues at the County.

Mayor Miyagishima said I support your comments and I think there is going to be some movement in Santa Fe regarding this issue.

Councillor Silva said I would like to commend City staff for bringing forward the tax reform discussion and this type of issue is like moving a mountain so it won't happen overnight. I spoke with someone last night who said there were discussions at Santa Fe regarding passing a gas tax at the local level and to me that seems like the State is passing the buck again. I know there are well intentions behind that type of legislation but I feel that type of legislation is more short-term than long-term. I feel that if City Council really wanted to take roads on as a topic then maybe we should consider passing a bond or encourage staff to start laying the ground work for passing a bond and have a more long-term solution.

The Love of Art Month was implemented more than 15 years ago and I really encourage people to go out and support your local artists because without art our community is incomplete.

DRAFT

Councillor Sorg said regarding the gas tax, we need to keep in mind that our vehicles are becoming more and more fuel efficient which means we're collecting less tax for the use of our roads. This is a user's fee, not a tax, the roads are paid by the people who use them so a gas tax is not a bad thing.

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c.) City Manager

Robert Garza, City Manager said I just want to remind you that we have a Closed Meeting after this meeting today.

Councillor Small Moved to Adjourn and Councillor Smith Seconded the motion.

Mayor Miyagishima said all of those in favor signify by saying "Aye."

Council said "Aye."

Meeting Adjourned at 5:36 p.m.