City Council
of the
City of Las Cruces

Regular Meeting

May 4, 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 Small 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 Small presented a Proclamation to George Pearson and declared May 2015 as National Bike Month and May 3 thru May 9, 2015 as Las Cruces Ride Your Bike Week and May 15, 2015 as Ride Your Bike to Work Day.

Councillor Small presented a Proclamation to Officer Danner and declared May 3 thru May 9, 2015 as Arson Awareness Week.

Councillor Small presented a Proclamation to Francis Williams and Jim Harbison to recognize the Vietnam War Memorial.

Councillor Small presented a Proclamation to Abbie Carver and declared May 4, 2015 as Cruceño Clean up Day.

Councillor Small presented a Proclamation to Mujeres y Hombres Activos Revolucionarios, Aggie Solidarity and Women Crossing Borders and declared May 4, 2015 as Transnational Solidarity Day.

Councillor Small presented a Proclamation to Lee De Ruse and declared May 6 thru May 12, 2015 as National Nurses Week.

Councillor Small presented a Proclamation to Charles Wendler and declared May 7, 2015 as the National Day of Prayer.

Councillor Small presented a Proclamation to Chief Jaime Montoya and declared May10 thru May16, 2015 as Police Week and May 15, 2015 as Peace Officers Memorial Day.

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 of interest.

Mayor Miyagishima read a Disclosure Statement for Item 16 and said as part of our agreement with HUD, an additional Conflict of Interest Disclosure is requested regarding the following agencies, who are being considered for funding as part of the 2015 Action Plan on the Consent Agenda: Mesilla Valley CASA, St. Luke's, Mesilla Valley Community of Hope, Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity, Casa de Peregrinos, La Casa, and Jardin de Los Niños. Conflicts prohibited, no persons who exercise or have exercised any functions or responsibilities with respect to activities assisted with CDBG/HOME assisted activity, or have an interest in any contract, subcontract or agreement with respect thereto, or the proceeds thereunder, either for themselves or those with whom they have family or business ties, during their tenure or for one year thereafter.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Tomas Rey, CEO for Certo Plast North America said I would like to thank all of you for considering the LEDA project. Certo Plast is well on its way to deliver on its promises and we are currently at about 22% of the 50 employees that we seek to hire full-time. We are waiting for some machinery and other compliance regulations that have to be met for Federal regulations.

Dolores Archuleta, Mayor Pro-tem Emeritus said I am here representing the Veteran Memorial Wall Committee and I wanted to let everyone know that we will be having our 4th Annual Candlelight Ceremony on Memorial Day at eight o'clock at Veterans Park.

Abram Overcast, Member of the Public said regarding the Mesquite Learning Center, on May 10th they will be closing the building and reallocate that building to the Parks and Recreation Weed and Seed Program. The Mesquite Learning Center has been open for 13 years and it provided low income households with free courses for them to obtain their GED. I would like to ask you to renew the lease so we can keep the Mesquite Learning Center.

Robert Garza, City Manager said the intended use of that facility is a campus for teen activities but we did reach out to Doña Ana Community College and NMSU to advise them that their current contract with us expires at the end of May and that we were willing to extend that lease. After they assessed their programs, they advised us that they wanted to expand their programming and that building wasn't sufficient for their needs so potentially they will be offering the classes that were at that location, at their other location that is about 1.3 miles down the road on Nevada Avenue.

Abram Overcast said the one thing about moving to that location is that the teachers at this current location will all lose their jobs. The only staff that was able to continue with their jobs were the NMSU staff so I don't understand why the City would support the termination of tutors that are educating our community.

Robert Garza said this is not a City program; it is not funded by the City so we have nothing to do with the hiring or firing of anyone. You would need to speak with the Community College about those issues.

Councillor Silva said I know that President Scott offered a Question and Answer Session on Thursday night but I don't know how many people attended it. These are their programs and they are going to expand them to the Nevada Center.

Emma Lara, Member of the Public said I am a part-time teacher at this learning center and I have been working there for almost 11 years. We want your support in allowing us to continue to work at that center and we have collected a lot of signatures from people who also want it to stay there.

Mayor Miyagishima said you were getting paid by the University, not the City; correct?

Emma Lara said yes, the University.

Mayor Miyagishima said we were just providing space for the Community College and how they choose to move that operation is strictly their call.

Juan Perez, Member of the Public said I am a student from the Mesquite Learning Center and I work in the morning and go there in the afternoon. They are only moving the morning students which is why they don't want to take the tutors because the tutors are the ones who help us after 5:30 until 8:00. I would just like for people to help us.

Mayor Miyagishima said I will get with President Scott and try to see what is happening but I can't promise you anything.

Petra Estrada, Member of the Public said I am a student at the Mesquite Learning Center and we agree with relocating but we are a big family and we think the teachers should be moved too.

Fernando Clemente, Member of the Public said the Mesquite Learning Center has provided education to people in this community so they can be better role models for future generations. I am reaching out to you to maintain the Mesquite Learning Center and leave it open with the continuation of the education program. I don't understand how shutting down this program would help our community.

DRAFT

Pamela Angel, Member of the Public said I am the Executive Director of St. Luke's and we have been serving homeless and indigent people for the past 25 years. Today is our 25th Anniversary so I would like to invite everyone to the Annex between five and seven this afternoon for our party.

Kathleen Albers, Member of the Public said I am with the Doña Ana Arts Council and this year is the 10th Anniversary of the Grand Re-Opening of the Rio Grande Theater. I just want to remind you that there are several items in the Capital Outlay budget which we have listed in the ICIP process so I want to encourage you to approve some of those top items for the Rio Grande Theater.

Yvonne Ortega gave an overhead presentation regarding Donate for Life.

IV. <u>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.</u>

Mayor Miyagishima said Items 7, 8, 10 and 11 need to be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

Councillor Small Moved to Approve the Agenda as Amended and Councillor Sorg 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

V. CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

*(1) Regular City Council Meeting of April 6, 2015
*(2) Special City Council Meeting of April 8, 2015

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

*(3) Resolution No. 15-206: A Resolution Authorizing High Desert Brewing Company to Continue with the Permitting Process to Allow for the Sale and Consumption of Beer Within a Restricted and Secured Area Inside of and in Front of the Rio Grande Theater, 211 North Main Street, on Saturday, June 20, 2015.

*(4) Resolution No. 15-207: A Resolution Authorizing the City of Las Cruces to Accept Awarded Funding on Behalf of Thomas Branigan Memorial Library From the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs - New Mexico State Library, Capital Appropriation Project, General Obligation Bond in the Amount of $258,253.69, and to Ratify the City Manager's Signature on the Agreement.

*(5) Resolution No. 15-208: A Resolution Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Las Cruces on Behalf of Its Police Department, and Las Cruces Public Schools, for the LCPD's Youth Leadership Academy and to Ratify the City Manager's Signature on the Agreement.

*(6) Resolution No. 15-209: A Resolution Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Las Cruces on Behalf of Its Police Department, and New Mexico State University, to Accept a Grant Award in the Amount of $5,000.00, to Ratify the City Manager's Signature on the Agreement, and to Adjust the FY 15 Budget.

*(9) Resolution No. 15-212: A Resolution Approving the Destruction of Non-Evidentiary Recordings Captured by the Las Cruces Police Department.

*(12) Council Bill No. 15-035; Ordinance No. 2754: An Ordinance Approving a Zone Change From C-2 (Commercial Medium Intensity) to R-1AM (Single-Family Medium Density Mobile) on 0.93± Acres Located at 5365 Morningside Road. Submitted by Christina Valenzuela on Behalf of Ramiro and Yolanda Valenzuela, Property Owners (Z2885).

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

*(7) Resolution No. 15-210: A Resolution Approving Proposed Amendments 1, 2, and 3, to the 2014 Action Plan as Part of the 2011-2015 Consolidated Plan for the City of Las Cruces. The Resolution Authorizes City Staff to Submit the Proposed Amendments to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Resolution Also Approves the Necessary Budget Adjustment to the City's FY2015 Budget to Reflect Amendments 1, 2, and 3 in the 2014 Action Plan.

Councillor Silva Moved to Approve Resolution No. 15-210 and Councillor Sorg Seconded the motion.

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Natalie Green, Neighborhood Program Specialist gave an overhead presentation and said the Action Plan is a document that is submitted annually to HUD and it outlines our priorities, needs, and strategies for spending Community Development Block Grant funds and HOME Investment funds. We are also asked annually to estimate program income that we anticipate receiving in the upcoming year. The first amendment to this is that we had an excess amount of income in 2013 so we are dedicating the offset of those funds to Habitat for Humanity. The second amendment is in anticipation of shortages, we are adjusting our Program Year for 2014. We are reducing our CDBG by $15,000 and our HOME by $11,000 and these adjustments are to our administrative funds, not our funds dedicated to projects. The third amendment is for a $100,000 reduction from our uncommitted 2013 HOME rehab funds to a public infrastructure street improvement project for Program Year 2015.

Councillor Silva said I just wanted to make sure that we weren't going to have a reduction in service or affect the current programs.

Natalie Green said no, it will not affect the existing programs.

Mayor Miyagishima called for the roll on the Motion to Approve Resolution No. 15-210 and it was Unanimously Approved. 7-0

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*(8) Resolution No. 15-211: A Resolution Authorizing an Assignment of Land Lease for Parcel 12 at the Las Cruces International Airport from Ronald G. Karp to Ronald G. Karp and Lisa M. Karp.

Councillor Silva Moved to Approve Resolution No. 15-211 and Councillor Sorg Seconded the motion.

Councillor Silva asked why are we including the daughter in this lease program?

Lisa Murphy, Airport Director said the only reason we are adding the daughter is because Mr. Karp requested it.

Councillor Silva asked why is he doing it?

Lisa Murphy said he did not state why he wanted to add his daughter and I wouldn't want to speculate.

DRAFT

Councillor Levatino said it's not that unusually for a family member to be added to a lease.

Mayor Miyagishima called for the roll on the Motion to Approve Resolution No. 15-211 and it was Unanimously Approved. 7-0

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*(10) Council Bill No. 15-033; Ordinance No. 2752: 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 Certo Plast North America Project.

Councillor Sorg Moved to Approve Council Bill No. 15-033; Ordinance No. 2752 and Councillor Silva Seconded the motion.

Councillor Silva said I just wanted to compliment Gary Camarano and his staff. Since he has come aboard, he has been doing a very good job on moving forward with these types of projects.

Councillor Small said I think there is an estimated creation of 50 jobs which that piece is important, especially as we see more LEDA applications coming in because the number of jobs these will possible bring in, that number is often higher than what is contained in the agreement.

Gary Camarano, Economic Development Coordinator said that is correct. The guarantee is for 50 jobs but it will probably approach more to the hundred area.

Mayor Miyagishima called for the roll on the Motion to Approve Council Bill No. 15-033; Ordinance No. 2752 and Approved. 6-0 Councillor Levatino was absent

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*(11) Council Bill No. 15-034; Ordinance No. 2753: An Ordinance Approving a Zone Change from R-3 (Multi-Dwelling Medium Density) to C-2 (Commercial Medium Intensity) on Two Parcels Totaling 0.52± Acres Located at 870 E Madrid Ave. Submitted by Israel Brown on Behalf of Javier and Silvia Terrazas, Property Owners (Z2884).

Councillor Sorg Moved to Approve Council Bill No. 15-034; Ordinance No. 2753 and Councillor Silva Seconded the motion.

Councillor Silva said there needs to be an administrative change because this is in District 1, not District 5 as it states on the cover sheet.

Mayor Miyagishima called for the roll on the Motion to Approve Council Bill No. 15-034; Ordinance No. 2753 and it was Unanimously Approved. 7-0

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(13) Resolution No. 15-213: A Resolution Adopting the Municipal Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 for City of Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Councillor Sorg Moved to Approve Resolution No. 15-213 and Councillor Smith Seconded the motion.

Robert Lundien, Senior Budget Analyst gave an overhead presentation and said the 15-16 Budget is balanced with no layoffs and there is no increase to GRT or property taxes.

Councillor Smith said regarding transportation and South Central Regional Transit District, we are being requested to continue funding at the rate of fifty cents per population based on our 2010 census which means it is going to be about $48,000 and I was told that we might be able to use in-kind types of things which might include something like office space at the Intermodal Terminal so that might reduce it by $3,000. Do you see a problem or a place where that sort of thing might be able to be included in the budget?

Robert Garza, City Manager said the City currently transfers money out of our General Fund to transit for subsidizing our existing transit system which doesn't pay for itself. We have Federal transit money coming in, we have the fare box, and then we have to subsidize the rest which our current subsidy is $1,125,000 a year. We can do whatever the City Council wants us to do but there is no pocket of money untapped. We are in a relatively flat growth overall and with the growth we are experiencing in our revenue is not even really keeping pace with inflation. There was some leftover funding in the amount of $2,000,047 and I put all those funds in our Vehicle Acquisition Fund. I would caution you that, that is one time money so committing money to the South Central Regional District ongoing operations; I have concerns with committing to long-term funding of an operation that is really for the most part to serve people outside the city. So, if Council wants to do that then we can find a way to put it in the budget but it will carve into our Vehicle Acquisition Fund or unfunded programs that we have in our proposal.

Councillor Smith said I would like to hear from my colleagues then to see if there is that level of will on this council because I recognize the concerns you've expressed; however, we are also looking at how we work with the County and we bring in people to come here to shop or seek medical services.

Councillor Sorg said I firmly believe bringing this transportation system to our region would help us bring people outside the city into the city for services which helps our gross receipt taxes. People need this transportation so I strongly favor us keeping our membership with the South Central Regional Transit District.

Robert Garza said we did check and there is an office space within our Intermodal Transit facility.

Councillor Small asked can the budget be amended if we pass it today?

Robert Garza said yes, it can be amended at anytime by resolution.

Councillor Small said the funding for either existing programs, for other capital projects; that Vehicle Acquisition Fund, although it would be unwise of us to deplete that entirely, that is a source of otherwise unallocated funding that could be used.

Robert Garza said yes and no. I put that funding into the Vehicle Acquisition Fund because we have a huge need for vehicle replacements and the amount I put into that fund falls short of what we should be putting in that fund but Council can decide to do something else with those funds.

Councillor Small said I do support continuing our membership with the South Central Regional Transit District and the opportunity to do so with a combination of office space and payment.

Councillor Pedroza said I am in favor of expanding and making regional transportation possible.

Councillor Levatino said if I'm not mistaken, this is the plan that the voters voted down last fall so I'm questioning if the City should be spending our resources on a countywide or regional plan. We are working on a very tight budget as it is and if there is any money that can be transferred into other projects then it seems to me that our city taxpayers would prefer to have it be spent on city issues so I'm not in favor of this at this point.

Councillor Smith said the County is committing about $750,000 toward this and also, I think there was a $440,000 grant from the State to be used to purchase some buses so there was money in the pipeline moving forward before the vote was taken last November.

Robert Garza said at our Work Session on June 8th, the MPO will be bringing in their consultant who has been working on the short range Transit Plan for our city so I think having that conversation before taking any additional steps would be productive.

Councillor Silva said I support a regional transportation plan but I do question the capability of this organization and their approach. I think there is plenty of time to discuss this and other topics as well that we might want to consider adjusting our budget.

Councillor Sorg said all of the members of the South Central Regional Transit District are going to or have been asked to pay dues at the rate of fifty cents per population so everyone is paying into this and Las Cruces is the hub for this because everyone will be coming here for medical care and shopping.

Also, I think another resolution we might want to consider doing as a council as a supplemental part of the budget to increase the support for the Greater Las Cruces Film Festival so I would propose adding an extra $20,000 to the budget to put in the Film Festival.

Councillor Small said I think we need a numbers analysis regarding us keeping two times the required amount for our reserve because during the course of the year it becomes increasingly difficult to justify that amount when that financial help is not translated into a specific savings or additional revenue that offsets the opportunity costs to residents who do not see operations or infrastructure because there is nearly $7 million that is not required to be held but is being held.

Robert Garza said assessing the value of savings is what we are talking about and you have to keep in mind that the $6.9 million that we are not spending is one time money as well as one time savings. So, since you adopted that policy several years back, those funds were put there but we can ask our financial advisors to tackle your question.

Mayor Miyagishima said I strongly support keeping the 2/12ths reserve and I think it would be a terrible mistake to drop below that amount.

Mayor Miyagishima called for the roll on the Motion to Approve Resolution No. 15-213 and it was Unanimously Approved. 7-0

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(14) Resolution No. 15-214: A Resolution Approving the Six-Year Capital Improvements Program as Required by the City Charter and the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration for the 2016 Legislative Session for the City of Las Cruces, New Mexico for Fiscal Year 2016 Through Fiscal Year 2021.

Councillor Smith Moved to Approve Resolution No. 15-214 and Councillor Levatino Seconded the motion.

Loretta Reyes, Public Works Director gave an overhead presentation and said the amendments to FY16 CIP include the Airfield electrical improvements which was changed from $400,000 to $200,000, Precision Approach Path Indicator which $275,000 was moved from FY17 to FY16 , Court Charter School which was changed from $50,000 to $30,200, Intelligent Transportation Systems which was changed from $617,750 to $717,750, and Mesquite Historic District Lighting which was changed from $100,000 to $150,000.

Councillor Sorg said I see that next year you plan to spend $500,000 on remodeling the Convention and Visitors Bureau Visiting Center but I don't recall that being discussed by Council.

Loretta Reyes said this is monies that are set aside in the event that we find a building and there was a presentation given to you by Eric Martin and David Dollahon regarding a study that was done on several buildings in the Downtown area.

Councillor Sorg said I'm okay with the rest of it and I understand most of it.

Councillor Small said in terms of adding other projects that don't currently appear on the ICIP, that can also be done by resolution; correct?

Loretta Reyes said correct, but we are currently engaged in a three year program to spend $8 million in bonds and $1,000,036 that we received from the Legislature so we have already allocated monies toward projects that are already listed in FY16.

Councillor Sorg said I'm really surprised that we're going to spend another $100,000 on the Munson Center; what is this money for?

Loretta Reyes said it may be for improvements.

Eric Martin, Facilities Director said we have put about a million into the Munson Center over the past couple of years and one of the things we are finishing up is the installation of a generator so that $100,000 will go toward finishing up that project.

DRAFT

Mayor Miyagishima called for the roll on the Motion to Approve Resolution No. 15-214 and it was Unanimously Approved. 7-0

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(15) Resolution No. 15-215: A Resolution Adopting Funding Priorities and Allocations to Various Las Cruces Non-Profit Organizations for Fiscal Year 2016 to Provide Health-Related Public Services Needs and Authorizing the Incorporation of the Funding Amounts Into the City's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget.

Councillor Small Moved to Approve Resolution No. 15-215 and Councillor Levatino Seconded the motion.

Natalie Green, Neighborhood Program Specialist gave an overhead presentation and said Health Related Public Services is funded annually from the interest earnings from the Telshor Facility Fund in the amount of $300,000. Program staff conducted onsite monitoring reviews to ensure satisfactory program performance, accurate record keeping and fiscal responsibility. All selected grantees have met satisfactory performance measures and continue to meet their contractual obligations. The Health and Human Services Advisory Committee (HHSAC)reviewed year two budgets, program goals, and staff monitoring reports and HHSAC voted to recommend all fourteen agencies for year two funding awards.

Robert Garza, City Manager said the Telshor Fund generates more than what we give away. It varies by year and for the current year it will be bringing in $480,000 of interest.

Councillor Small said I support this and I'm glad to see it coming forward today.

Councillor Levatino asked how many applications do you receive for a piece of this pie?

Natalie Green said in general, we receive about 20 to 30 applications but since this is a two year funding cycle, the second year is not competitive; it goes to the applicants selected in year one.

Councillor Levatino asked how many years have they been receiving funds from this $300,000?

Natalie Green said it depends on the agency because not every agency is funded every year.

Councillor Levatino said perhaps next year, I would like to see their income, their expenses, where their income is coming from, how well are they fundraising, and see a breakdown for each one of these organizations that are applying for this funding. I do support this and I will be voting for it.

DRAFT

Councillor Pedroza said I also support this but it seems to me that since we are only giving a portion of what is made to the non-profits then it seems to me that there is some leeway for us looking at doing a study for a way to end homelessness.

Councillor Silva said I know the selection process is very difficult and it would be nice if we were able to increase the funding for this but I think I would need some context of how we would alter this process.

Councillor Smith said I know in the past we've talked about realigning how we distribute this money and I think if we could be smart about what we do with it and consider some different opportunities then we wouldn't necessarily be looking at cutting what goes to these organizations but actually looking at how we can proactively or more constructively use the resources we have.

Mayor Miyagishima called for the roll on the Motion to Approve Resolution No. 15-215 and it was Unanimously Approved. 7-0

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(16) Resolution No. 15-216: A Resolution Approving the 2015 Action Plan as Part of the 2011-2015 Consolidated Plan for the City of Las Cruces. The Resolution Authorizes City Staff to Submit the 2015 Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Incorporate Necessary Agreements With Outside Partnering Agencies.

Councillor Small Moved to Approve Resolution No. 15-216 and Councillor Sorg Seconded the motion.

Vera Zamora, Housing and Neighborhood Services Manager gave an overhead presentation and said the Action Plan is a document that is required by HUD and it is prepared annually. The purpose of the 2015 Action Plan is to address the needs within the community based on the jurisdiction's identified housing and community development needs, priorities, goals and strategies from their most recent Consolidated Plan and to stipulate how Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership Program funds will be allocated to housing and community development needs in the community. The five year strategies are to increase the supply of affordable housing units for low to moderate income buyers, increase affordability of rental housing for the City's lowest income renters, preserve existing affordable housing stock, assist special needs populations with social service and housing needs, including needed improvements to public facilities, implement the City's 2013 Fair Housing Plan, and improve public infrastructure, economic and housing conditions in low income, economically-challenged and deteriorating neighborhoods.

Councillor Small asked what is the rough deficit of affordable housing for low to moderate income community members?

Vera Zamora said probably just below 4,000 units.

Councillor Small said the $200,000 that is going to Habitat for Humanity, approximately how many units would that help to construct?

Vera Zamora said it is my understanding that it would help construct at least three units.

Councillor Levatino asked what is the current definition of affordable low income housing; what is the affordable range?

Vera Zamora said the affordable house depends on the affordability of the family. There is a study for that but I don't have those numbers with me.

Mayor Miyagishima called for the roll on the Motion to Approve Resolution No. 15-216 and it was Approved. 6-0 Councillor Pedroza was absent.

VIII. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Miyagishima appointed Jacobo Varela (At-Large Position) to the Veterans Advisory Board.

Councillor Small Moved to Approve Mayor Miyagishima's board appointment of Jacobo Varela (At-Large Position) to the Veterans Advisory Board and Councillor Silva Seconded the motion.

Mayor Miyagishima called for the roll on the Motion to Approve Mayor Miyagishima's board appointment of Jacobo Varela (At-Large Position) to the Veterans Advisory Board and it was Unanimously Approved. 7-0

Mayor Miyagishima appointed Councillor Small, Councillor Sorg and Councillor Levatino to the Economic Development Committee.

Councillor Sorg Moved to Approve Mayor Miyagishima's board appointments of Councillor Small, Councillor Sorg and Councillor Levatino to the Economic Development Committee and Councillor Levatino Seconded the motion.

Mayor Miyagishima called for the roll on the Motion to Approve Mayor Miyagishima's board appointments Councillor Small, Councillor Sorg and Councillor Levatino to the Economic Development Committee and it was Unanimously Approved. 7-0

Councillor Silva appointed Craig Buchannan of US Bank to the Economic Development Committee.

Councillor Smith appointed Christine Logan of New Mexico Department of Economic to the Economic Development Committee.

Councillor Sorg appointed Davin Lopez of MVEDA to the Economic Development Committee.

Councillor Levatino appointed Arlon Pavish to the Economic Development Committee.

Councillor Pedroza appointed Abby Train to the Economic Development Committee.

Councillor Small appointed Irene Oliver-Lewis to the Economic Development Committee.

IX. 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).***

(17) Council Bill No. 15-036; Ordinance No. 2755: An Ordinance Repealing and Replacing Section 36-3 Definitions and Enacting a New Section 36-120 of the Las Cruces Municipal Code, Entitled "Consolidated Development/Builder Identification Signs and Development Directional Signs". Submitted by Sierra Norte Development, Inc., Case No. SCA-14-01.1

Mayor Miyagishima and Council agreed to bring this item back.

X. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER BOARD REPORTS

Councillor Silva gave a report regarding the National Main Street Annual Conference.

XI. GENERAL DISCUSSION

a.) Mayor

Mayor Miyagishima said I don't really have anything but that I would have liked to attend that neighborhood meeting but I had the stomach flu.

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b.) City Council

Councillor Smith said last night, I attended the full moon event at White Sands National Monument and there were youth orchestras from El Paso. It was a beautiful event.

Councillor Levatino, Sorg and I had a conversation this past week about the proclamations; it does take a lot of time for us and there are highly paid staff members who sit for around an hour while we go through those proclamations which can add up to be quite expensive. So, we concluded that if our colleagues would consider, in order to better manage the amount of time spent on proclamations while maintaining the value of making those proclamations to our community, we're asking that you consider that we limit the number of proclamations made at a single meeting to five; that we limit the proclamations themselves to 200 words and five whereas statements; that we ask those submitting proclamations to avoid statements that would advertently advertise certain products, businesses or partisan politics; that we ask them and ourselves to exercise caution regarding the First Amendment with respect to religion; and when there are multiple recipients that we request that one alone be given the opportunity to speak and that they keep their remarks at a maximum of two minutes. We're not asking for a decision today but simply asking that our colleagues consider such guidelines are put in place so we can better manage our time.

We've talked about the encouragement of Infill so if we tie together some things and look at how we encourage innovation and some of the Infill; first in my mind would be sort of a starting place, a test perhaps, before we invest along the lines of what we've talked about previously with some City owned properties along Missouri.

Mayor Miyagishima said regarding your first item, I try not to put too many proclamations for a meeting but sometimes they are just given the green light without my knowledge. I will pass your suggestions to Janice but it might be a little hard to tell recipients to keep their comments down to two minutes.

Councillor Levatino passed.

Councillor Sorg said I just want to say that the Neighborhood Expo last Saturday was a good thing to do and it was a great success.

Councillor Small said the technology, pride, and capability on display at the Neighborhood Expo were just tremendous and it was a very positive event.

I think the proclamation guidelines are good to note and more public involvement in the proper ways and the more they feel like City Hall is their building, the better.

Infill opportunities are some of the most important opportunities and sometimes some of the trickiest that we have in this community. We are going into a stretch where we have some opportunity to spur positive reinvestment so thinking Infill and focusing on Infill is always good.

I know the Rate Case has not been filed yet but I would note that once it does is filed, it will be totally public so we should be very clear that it is a public rate case that is viewable by all who are interested. So, it doesn't seem that it would be out of order to have public forums that are done in the right way.

Councillor Pedroza said I also attended the Expo and I thought it was excellent.

There is a sale on May 9th at Peace Lutheran Church on Missouri and Locust that will help serve others so everyone is invited to donate and buy things.

May 1st is Law Day which I believe is very important and it started with a Labor Union strike in Illinois.

Councillor Silva said I did talk with Dr. Scott last week when she had her question and answer session regarding the Mesquite Learning Center and I respect the tough decisions that had to be made by Doña Ana Community College. They're not stopping any programs; they are just transferring them from one location to another. I also think that using that building for a youth center is positive not only for that neighborhood, for the entire community.

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c.) City Manager

Robert Garza, City Manager said I want to remind you all that we have a Closed Session upstairs after the meeting.

We are changing Jamey's job title; instead of it being Community Liaison, it is now Council and Constituent Services Coordinator.

We have received confirmation on our selling of the former City Hall building so we have some finalizing to do and then we will be bringing forward an ordinance for you all to finalize that action.

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

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

Council said "Aye."

Meeting Adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

DRAFT