



MAYOR AND COUNCIL Study Session Minutes

Approved by Mayor and Council
on January 24, 2022.

Date of Meeting: April 19, 2022

MEETING NOTE: Due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which prompted declarations of a public health emergency at the local, state and federal levels, this meeting was conducted using measures to protect public health. This meeting was held remotely through technological means, as permitted under Arizona law.

The Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson met in study session remotely through Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, April 19, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Romero at 1:06 p.m.

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Mayor Regina Romero
Vice Mayor Lane Santa Cruz (Ward 1)
Council Member Cunningham (Ward 2)
Council Member Kevin Dahl (Ward 3)
Council Member Richard G. Fimbres (Ward 5)
Council Member Steve Kozachik (Ward 6)

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

ABSENT:

Council Member Nikki Lee (Ward 4)

STAFF:

Michael J. Ortega, City Manager
Michael Rankin, City Attorney
Suzanne Mesich, City Clerk

1. **City Manager's Report and Update on COVID-19; Ongoing City and County Mitigation Measures; Funding and Appropriations; and Related Legal Matters (City Wide Outside City) SS/APR19-22-80**

Introductory comments were provided by Mayor Romero.

Information was provided by Mike Rankin, City Attorney, who fielded and answered questions the court case in Florida ordering the vacating, on a nationwide basis, the mask requirement for public transit as well as airline conveyances and in airports. He

said the judge roughly concluded that the CDC requirement exceed the agency statutory authority as well as the procedural requirement of the administrative procedures act, which was the federal act relating to rulemaking by federal agencies.

Mr. Rankin informed that both the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) had announced that the mask requirement would not be enforced effective immediately but would continue to review the court order. He said he advised the City's Department of Transportation (DTM) of this change, but masks should still be encouraged and provided at the transit center.

Mr. Rankin stated no action was needed by the Mayor and Council and that he would keep them apprised of any changes and/or further developments.

Discussion ensued regarding the City's authority, what was defensible and the Mayor and Council's desire regarding this issue and how to move forward.

Discussion was then held regarding the Emergency Declaration in place for the City and how that would be terminated.

Mr. Rankin advised that that could be done by proclamation, and he would work with Mayor Romero in that respect.

Mayor Romero also asked about the Mayor and Council returning to in-person meetings. She said she wanted the next meeting to be in-person but to ensure all precautions were taken to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Discussion continued regarding revising the Mayor and Council Rules and Regulations to accommodate in-person versus virtual or hybrid meetings, to include Boards, Committees, and Commissions.

Mr. Rankin stated he was working with the City Clerk's Office on this and once completed would bring information back to the Mayor and Council.

No formal action was taken.

2. FY 22/23 Budget Summary (City Wide) SS/APR19-22-84

Introductory comments were provided by Michael J. Ortega, City Manager. He said the presentation was basically a summary of the information he had presented; no decision was necessary at this time and that his recommendation would be presented at the next meeting. He mentioned that the budget was structurally balanced at this time and assumed the passage of Prop. 411 which was needed ensure that funds were properly allocated.

Information and presentation were provided by Jeffrey Yates, Business Services Department Director, who fielded and answered questions. His presentation included information on

Citywide Budget Assumptions, General Fund Summary, General Fund Revenues and Expenditures, Other funds (Tucson Convention Center, Highway User Revenue Fund [HURF], Transit, and Enterprise Funds [Environmental Services and Tucson Water]), Health Insurance, Supplemental Framework, and Next Steps.

Discussion ensued regarding truth in taxation, funding for collector roadways, supplemental requests, and compensation adjustments.

Mayor Romero asked if Prop. 411 did not pass were they going to have to rethink and redo the budget, specifically funds for public safety and collector streets.

Mr. Ortega responded that was correct.

Discussion continued. Comments were made by Mayor Romero, Vice Mayor Santa Cruz and Council Members Cunningham, Kozachik, Fimbres and Dahl, regarding fuel for transit, loss of fair box revenue, student loan repayment, environmental services, community engagement process, health insurance and self-insured trust, employee salaries, vacancy savings, and retention of employees, and compensation plan (salary adjustments) for employees.

No formal action was taken.

3. Annual Compensation Plan Recommendation for FY2023 (City Wide) SS/APR19-22-85

Introductory comments were provided by Mayor Romero on offering cost of living adjustments to employees. She suggested that maybe staff should bring back a few different options regarding the adjustment to make it as fair as possible.

Discussion ensued.

Michael J. Ortega, City Manager, stated he would bring back some scenarios for the Mayor and Council to consider regarding the 3% flat rate increase as opposed to a tiered higher percentage for lower paid employees and less of a percentage for the higher paid employees.

Discussion continued; no formal action was taken.

4. Presentation on Poverty in Pima County (City Wide) SS/APR19-22-81

Introductory comments were provided by Vice Mayor Santa Cruz.

Information and presentation were provided by Bonnie Bazata, Pima County's Community Services, Employment and Training (CSET) Department Director, who fielded and answered questions. She provided information on pre-pandemic poverty levels, families struggling to meet basic needs such as rent, utilities and groceries. She estimated that there were approximately 74,000 single-parent household that were living in poverty.

Discussion ensued. Comments were made by Mayor Romero and Vice Mayor Santa Cruz.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Santa Cruz, duly seconded, that the City of Tucson explore and initiate the formation of a joint task force between Pima County and the City to form a deeper understanding of poverty in Pima County, and the impact of chronic instability, scarcity, stress, and how environments and systems impact those experiencing poverty. The joint task force will also identify strategies and recommendations for collectively addressing pervasive inequities and poverty as we emerge from the pandemic.

Discussion continued. Comments were made by Dr. Brian Mayer, Professor UA School of Sociology and Director of Undergraduate Studies as well as Dan Sullivan, Director Pima County CWD.

The motion was CARRIED by a voice vote of 6 to 0 (Council Member Lee absent/excused).

RECESS: 3:54 p.m.

RECONVENE: 4:02 p.m.

MAYOR & COUNCIL: All members present as they were at the start of the meeting.

STAFF: All present

5. Community Safety, Health, and Wellness Update (City Wide) SS/APR19-22-83

Introductory comments were provided by Mayor Romero.

Information and presentation were provided by Sarah Launius, Ph.D., Community Safety, Health & Wellness Program Director, who fielded and answered questions on substance use, houselessness, mental health, roundtables, surveys, community and stakeholder conversations, fostering community connections, leveraging community resources, crisis interruption, violence interruption and flow chart of the overall program.

Discussion ensued. Comments were made by Mayor Romero and Council Member Kozachik.

No formal action was taken.

6. Update on PFAS and the City of Tucson Water Supply (Ward 5) SS/APR19-22-82

Introductory comments were provided by Michael J. Ortega, City Manager.

Information was provided by John Kmiec, Tucson Water Interim Director, who fielded and answered questions on the quarterly update regarding PFAS and the City's water supply.

Discussion ensued. Comments were made by Mayor Romero, Vice Mayor Santa Cruz, and Council Members Kozachik and Fimbres.

No formal action was taken.

7. Updates on State and National Legislation and Regional Committees (City Wide) SS/APR19-22-77

Information was provided by Andrew Greenhill, Intergovernmental Relations Manager, who fielded and answered questions.

Discussion ensued; no formal action was taken.

8. Mayor and Council Discussion of Regular Agenda (City Wide) SS/APR19-22-78

Michael J. Ortega announced Item #12, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Consideration and Approval, on the Regular Agenda was being continued to the May 3, 2022, meeting. Barbra Coffee, Economic Initiatives Department Director gave an update on the item.

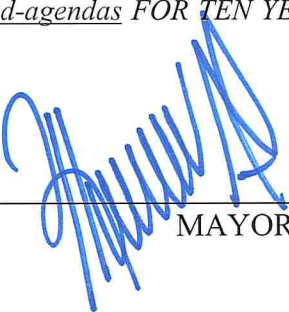
Mike Rankin, City Attorney, announced that for Item #8, Public Hearing: C8-22-03 UDC Text Amendments Relating to Electric Vehicle (EV) Readiness and Individual Parking Plan Eligibility, there were some corrections to the Ordinance that needed to be read into the record should the Mayor and Council approve the item.

9. Mayor and Council Discussion of Future Agendas (City Wide) SS/APR19-22-79

No items were identified.

12. ADJOURMENT – 5:07 p.m.

AUDIO RECORDING FOR THIS MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON-LINE AT <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/gov/meeting-schedules-and-agendas> FOR TEN YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THIS MEETING.



MAYOR


ATTEST:



CITY CLERK

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

I, the undersigned, have read the foregoing transcript of the study session meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson, Arizona, held on the 19th day of April 2022, and do hereby certify that it is an accurate transcription.



DEPUTY CITY CLERK

SM:yl