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## MAYOR AND COUNCIL Study Session Minutes

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Approved by Mayor and Council  
on December 6, 2022.

Date of Meeting: March 9, 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, March 9, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Romero at 1:07 p.m.

### OFFICIAL MEMBERS

#### PRESENT:

Mayor Regina Romero  
Vice Mayor Lane Santa Cruz (Ward 1)  
Council Member Cunningham (Ward 2)  
Council Member Karin Uhlich (Ward 3)  
Council Member Nikki Lee (Ward 4)  
Council Member Richard G. Fimbres (Ward 5)  
Council Member Steve Kozachik (Ward 6)

### OFFICIAL MEMBERS

#### ABSENT:

None

#### STAFF:

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

1. **Executive Session – City of Tucson v. Caruso’s Restaurant, Inc. et al., Pima County Superior Court Case No. C20203403 for Acquisition of Property Located at 3501 E. Grant Road for the Grant Road Project (City Wide) SS/MAR09-22-46**
3. **Executive Session – Smith v. City of Tucson, Pima County Superior Court Case No. C20213347 (City Wide) SS/MAR09-22-42**

It was moved by Council Member Fimbres, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0, to enter into executive session as noticed on the agenda.

RECESS: 1:09 p.m.

RECONVENE: 1:58 p.m.

MAYOR & COUNCIL: All present

STAFF: All present

Executive Session was held from 1:10 p.m. to 1:50 p.m.

It was moved by Council Member Fimbres, duly seconded, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7 to 0, to return to open session.

2. **Mayor and Council Direction Regarding Executive Session – City of Tucson v. Caruso’s Restaurant, Inc., et et al., Pima County Superior Court Case No. C20203403 for Acquisition of Property Located at 3501 E. Grant Road for the Grant Road Project (City Wide) SS/MAR09-22-47**

It was moved by Council Member Dahl, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote 7 to 0, to proceed as discussed in Executive Session and direct the City Manager and City Attorney, to resolve the partial acquisition of the property located at 3501 E. Grant Road for the Grant Road Project.

3. **Executive Session – Smith v. City of Tucson, Pima County Superior Court Case No. C20213347 (City Wide) SS/MAR09-22-42**

(This item was considered after Item #1.)

4. **Mayor and Council Direction Regarding Executive Session – Smith v. City of Tucson, Pima County Superior Court Case No. C20213347 (City Wide) SS/MAR09-22-43**

It was moved by Council Member Kozachik, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote 7 to 0, to proceed as discussed in Executive Session and direct the City Manager and City Attorney, specifically to authorizing and approving settlement of the case in the amount of \$400,000.

5. **City Manager’s Report and Update on COVID-19; Ongoing City and County Mitigation Measures; Funding and Appropriations; and Related Legal Matters (City Wide and Outside City) SS/MAR09-22-45**

Information was provided by Michael J. Ortega, City Manager, who fielded and answered questions He said there had been some movement with regard to the CDC and Pima County, masking requirements. CDC changed their mask requirements. On February 25th basically tying it to community spread. Pima County lifted or rescinded their mask mandate in public facilities. He said it was his intention to do the same for city facilities. He said transit masking would remain a requirement as it was a recommendation from the CDC.

Regina Romero added a little bit more detail on the Pima County Health advisory and what was their exact recommendation based on the CDC. She said she knew that the Board of Supervisors voted on making masks recommended but not required.

Discussion ensued; it was suggested that the information provided to both the public and City employees be as clear as possible if this mandate was being lifted as of Monday, March 14th.

Because of the new CDC guidelines for COVID-19, the subject of in-person Mayor and Council meetings was brought up. Discussion was held. The Mayor and Council Members expressed their preference for returning to in-person meetings and it was decided that the City Clerk's Office would poll Mayor and Council on the preferred date(s) to return to live meetings. Discussion was also held regarding the logistics of the meetings and if staff and the Mayor and Council Chambers, with all of the system upgrades made, were ready for this endeavor.

No formal action was taken.

**6. General Fund Revenue Discussion for Fiscal Year 21/22 and 22/23 (City Wide) SS/MAR09-22-50**

Opening comments were made by Michael J. Ortega, City Manager.

Information and presentation were provided by Jeffrey Yates, Business Services Department Director, who fielded and answered questions on Revenue Trends, Drivers and Preliminary FY 2023 Revenue Estimates, as well as Economic Indicators Impacting Revenues.

Discussion ensued regarding inflation, sales tax, cost of labor, filling vacancies, personnel costs, gas prices, move to go with being EV ready. TSRS and PSPRS impacts. Comments were made by the Mayor and Council Members Cunningham, Kozachik and Fimbres.

No formal action was taken.

**7. Affordable Housing Impact Fee Subsidy Expansion – Amending Tucson Code Section 23A-81 (E)(1) (City Wide) SS/MAR09-22-44**

Opening comments were made by Michael J. Ortega, City Manager.

Information and presentation were provided by Liz Morales, Housing and Community Development Department Director, who fielded and answered questions on Housing Affordability Strategy for Tucson (HAST) update, eligible applicants, recommendations to expand eligibility and reasons to expand.

Discussion ensued regarding incoming housing tax credit projects, Low-Income



Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) projects, and subsidy program budget. Comments were made by Mayor Romero, Vice Mayor Santa Cruz, and Council Members Cunningham, Dahl, Kozachik, and Fimbres.

It was the consensus of the Mayor and Council that this item return for consideration at the Regular Meeting of March 22, 2022.

**8. Los Reales Sustainability Campus (LRSC), Project Update (City Wide) SS/MAR09-22-51**

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

Information and presentation were provided by Carlos DeLaTorre, Environmental and General Services Department Director, who fielded and answered questions on the Land Use Concept, Materials Recovering Facility (MRF) & Commercial / Industrial Concept, and Multi-Use Path Exhibit.

Discussion ensued regarding glass re-use composting, zero waste road map, household hazardous waste facility, long term programmatic and sustainability improvements, transition of a landfill to a sustainability campus, landfill gas recover realization study, and timeline.

Additional comments were made by Mayor Romero, Vice Mayor Santa Cruz and Council Members Cunningham, Kozachik, Lee and Fimbres.

No formal action was taken.

**9. EDA Build Back Better Regional Challenge Grant Phase II Application (City Wide) SS/MAR09-22-49**

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

Information and presentation were provided by Barbra Coffee, Economic Initiatives Department Director, who fielded and answered questions.

Discussion ensued. Comments were made by Council Members Dahl, Fimbres, Kozachik and Lee.

It was moved by Council Member Dahl, duly seconded, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7 to 0, to direct staff to finalize the grant application and authorize its submission to the FDS by the March 15, 2022, deadline.

**10. Plan Tucson Progress Report and General Plan Update (City Wide) SS/MAR09-22-48**

Opening remarks were made by Michael J. Ortega, City Manager.

Information and presentation were made by Scott Clark, Planning and Development Services Department, Director and Koren Manning, Planning and Development Services Department, Planning Administrator, who fielded and answered questions on Plan Tucson's progress report, pandemic response and recovery, focus areas (social, economic, natural and built environments), project phases, public engagement, Plan Tucson – current elements in the four-focus areas, policy framework, timeline (option A and B), resources and next steps.

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

It was moved by Council Member Fimbres, duly seconded, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7 to 0, to proceed with the recommendation provided by staff in the Mayor and Council Memorandum.

**11. Updates on State and National Legislation and Regional Committees (City Wide) SS/MAR09-22-39**

Information and presentation were made by Andrew Greenhill, Intergovernmental Relations Manager, who fielded and answered questions.

It was moved by Council Member Fimbres, duly seconded, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7 to 0, to support HB2060, HB2528, and SB1215 and oppose HB2414, HB2473, HB2624, HCR2028 and SB1084.

Mike Rankin, City Attorney, informed that he was going to join the Arizona League of Cities and Towns on their litigation in front of the Supreme Court alerting them of the negative consequences regarding mail in vote by mail ballots and early ballots. He said he would be filing an amicus brief on behalf of the City.

Discussion was also held regarding the postal reform.

No further action was taken.

**12. Mayor and Council Discussion of Regular Agenda (City Wide) SS/MAR09-22-40**

No items were identified.

**13. Mayor and Council Discussion of Future Agendas (City Wide) SS/MAR09-22-41**

No items were identified.

ADJOURNMENT: 5:43 p.m.

*AUDIO RECORDING AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST FROM THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE FOR  
TEN YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THIS MEETING.*

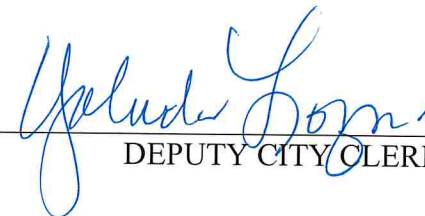
  
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MAYOR  
PRO-TEMPORE

ATTEST:

  
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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 9th day of March 2022, and do hereby certify that it is an accurate transcription.

  
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DEPUTY CITY CLERK

SM:yl