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## MAYOR AND COUNCIL Study Session Minutes

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Approved by Mayor and Council  
on September 28, 2021.

Date of Meeting: April 6, 2021

**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 6, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Romero at 1:01 p.m.

### OFFICIAL MEMBERS

#### PRESENT:

Mayor Regina Romero  
Council Member Lane Santa Cruz (Ward 1)  
Council Member Cunningham (Ward 2)  
Council Member Karin Uhlich (Ward 3)  
Vice Mayor 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, Chief Deputy City Clerk

- 1. Report and Update on the Continuing COVID-19, Emergency: City Response and Emergency Management; Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Mayor and Council Strategic Plan and Expenditures; American Rescue Plan (City Wide and Outside City) SS/APR06-21-78**

Introductory comments were made by Mayor Romero. She outlined the flow of the discussion regarding COVID numbers/cases, update on testing, vaccinations, utility delinquencies, and mask mandate in the City and Pima County

Information was provided by Michael J. Ortega, City Manager, on testing to date, vaccinations, delinquencies, re-opening of City facilities, recreation centers, pools and splash pads, and the Ready Set Rec Van.

Discussion ensued.

Information and presentation were provided by Andrew Greenhill, Intergovernmental Relations Manager, who fielded and answered questions on City of Tucson funding, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for other jurisdictions, Eviction Moratorium extension and the American Jobs Plan overview.

Mr. Greenhill reported that the City would be receiving \$47 million in transit funding from ARPA and like the Cares Act Funds and other transit funds received, the funds were available to be used for payroll, operating costs, PPE and other costs on a reimbursable basis.

Mr. Greenhill reviewed what Pima County was receiving in ARPA funding in comparison to other county jurisdictions and cities. He said that CDC eviction moratoriums were extended to June 30th and the American Jobs Plan was about \$2.25 trillion for COVID recovery.

Discussion ensued regarding water infrastructure and where the lead replacement might be relevant, funeral assistance program, and broadband update/report from the IT director.

Tim Thomure, Assistant City Manager, responded to the questions regarding lead replacement in Tucson Water (TW) infrastructure. He said TW had removed all known lead service lines, the last of these lines coming out during the on-going Broadway widening project. He stated the City conducted a “get the lead out program” and all known service lines were removed from the system.

Mr. Ortega stated that the Mayor and Council, at its last meeting, approved the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Pima County for the expansion of reimbursement costs for vaccinations. He said there was a blank in the IGA and he was reporting that the amount of \$10 million and basically was the amount Pima County would reimburse the City for vaccination costs.

No formal action was taken.

## **2. Market Rate Analysis Update (City Wide) SS/APR06-21-82**

Introductory comments were made by Mayor Romero. She said this item was for discussion only and that the Mayor and Council had given direction to take a holistic view, a comprehensive view, of pay issues for all City employees. She said it was a herculean effort by the City Manager and Finance Team, as well as the Human Resources Department, to gather this information for this comprehensive view of how

City employees compare to other jurisdictions within the region, county and comparable cities in the Phoenix valley.

Information was provided by Michael J. Ortega, City Manager. He stated he had not shared the results with department directors or employees, as they had just received the information. Some of things discovered were high level such as IT personnel where three or four classifications were in excess of 20% below market, as well as Courts personnel, who were in the 19% range, TFD was at 10% and TPD at 13%. He reminded the Mayor and Council that back in February, when they were having troubling retaining staff in Communications, he had already adjusted salaries in the realm to deal with some of those challenges. He said they would go back and make sure they hit the mark for that classification but wanted to be sure that the Mayor and Council was aware that there was not a placeholder for Public Safety Communications because he had already dealt with that.

Presentation was provided by Ana Urquijo, Assistant City Manager, who fielded and answered questions. She said her presentation was broken down into three categories, 1) findings from a third-party consultant, HR Know Consulting, LLC for all classifications (excluding commissioned Police & Fire), who was selected to review all non-public safety classifications and included a market study of 250 benchmark classifications and reviewed and updated an additional 150 classifications that were already under review by staff, 2) TFD classification review and study conducted by Human Resources Strategies, LLC., and 3) Market Rate Analysis of Tucson Police (TPD) conducted internally by staff.

Discussion ensued; no formal action was taken

### **3. Community Safety Pilot Program Update (City Wide) SS/APR06-21-83**

Introductory comments were made by Mayor Romero on Community Engagement and Program development for a Community Safety Pilot Program.

Information and presentation were provided by Liana Perez, Deputy City Manager, Charlene Mendoza, Mayor's Office, Chief of Staff, and Genesis Cubillas, Mayor's Office Community Engagement Advisor, who fielded and answered questions on reimagining and rebuilding community safety. Some areas discussed were safety, housing, mobility, plan and support as well as intentional community engagement, program development and next steps.

Discussion ensued. Comments were made by Council Members Uhlich, Santa Cruz, Kozachik, and Cunningham. No formal action was taken.



**4. Continued Discussion of the FY 2022 Operating Budget, Including an Updated General Fund Five-Year Projection, Budget Presentations from City Clerk, Information Technology and Police Departments (City Wide) SS/APR06-21-86**

Information was provided by Michael J. Ortega, City Manager who outlined the flow of the conversation.

Information and presentations were provided by the following departments who fielded and answered questions.

- City Clerk's Office – Roger W. Randolph, City Clerk
- Information Technology – Collin Boyce, Director
- Tucson Police Department – Chris Magnus, Chief of Police

Discussion ensued.

Information and presentation were provided by Jeff Yates, Business Services Department Director, who fielded and answered questions on the City's FY 2022 Operating Budget, including an update on the General Fund Five-Year Projections (staffing level assumptions).

Discussion ensued; no formal action taken.

**5. Visit Tucson Presentation (City Wide) SS/APR06-21-85**

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

Information and presentation were given by Brent DeRaad, Visit Tucson CTA President and CEO and Felipe Garcia, Visit Tucson CTA Executive Vice President, who fielded and answered questions.

Discussion ensued; no formal action taken.

**6. Update on Regulations Relating to Smoke Shops (City Wide) SS/APR06-21-84**

Introductory comments were made by Council Member Fimbres.

Information was provided by Assistant Chief Kevin Hall, Tucson Police Department, who fielded and answered questions on smoke shops, 1700 calls for services since January 2019, sale of spice at smoke shops and continued contribution to surrounding neighborhoods and businesses regarding incidences.

It was moved by Council Member Fimbres, duly seconded and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7 to 0, to have the City Manager direct staff to review the information provided, as well as, review the current process and report back to the Mayor and Council in sixty

(60) days on making improvements and changes to the current system, including a background or investigative process for applicants, distancing from schools and from other smoke shops, saturation of smoke shops in areas and hours of operation.

Discussion ensued; no further action taken.

RECESS: 5:00 p.m.

RECOVENT: 5:06 p.m.

MAYOR & COUNCIL: All present

STAFF: All present

**7. Consideration of Differential Rate Implementation for Tucson Water Customers Located in Unincorporated Pima County (Outside City) SS/APR06-21-88**

Introductory comments were made by Council Member Cunningham.

Information and presentation were given by Timothy Thomure, Assistant City Manager, who fielded and answered questions. He said staff essentially needed some direction regarding the Notice of Intent for Consideration of Differential Rate Implementation for Tucson Water customers located in unincorporated Pima County. He said the item on the evening's regular meeting would set the cap of what can be charged. He gave examples of cities in Arizona who charged these types of rates.

Discussion ensued.

**8. Adult Use and Medical Marijuana Unified Development Code Text Amendment (City Wide) SS/APR06-21-87**

Introductory comments were made by Mayor Romero.

Information and presentation were provided by Scott Clark, Planning and Development Services Department Director and Daniel Bursuck, Planning and Development Services Department Principal Planner, who fielded and answered questions on the proposed *Unified Development Code (UDC)* amendments for Adult Use and Medical Marijuana, steps taken, Planning Commission outcome, Social Equity Licenses, Separation Distance, Separation Distance-Comparison Separation Distance Analysis , Options 1 through 3, and Options for Revision Setbacks.

Discussion ensued.

It was moved by Council Member Fimbres, duly seconded, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7 to 0, that:

1. The Mayor and Council direct the City Manager and staff to participate and provide comment during the rule-making process to advocate for rules that will ensure that Social Equity licenses are ultimately issued to applicants

who represent the minority communities that were disproportionately impacted by the enforcement of earlier marijuana laws. At a minimum, those rules should limit the economic barriers to applications, such as the elimination of extraordinarily high application fees that will prevent small minority businesses from having the opportunity to compete for these licenses and instead steer them towards the established corporate interests who already dominate the industry.

2. The zoning regulations relating to adult use are on tonight's agenda. *In addition* to Mayor & Council's direction on advancing the UDC text amendments, The City Attorney is directed to have language ready for Mayor and Council consideration that would preserve the status quo relating to social equity licenses by temporarily prohibiting social equity license locations. To be clear, this is *in addition* to moving forward the UDC text amendments and would NOT affect dual-use dispensaries (which are currently the only dispensaries permitted to offer recreational products), nor would it affect location changes of existing dual use dispensaries.

Discussion continued; no further action was taken.

**9. Updates on State and National Legislation and Regional Committees (City Wide) SS/APR06-21-79**

Information and presentation were given by Andrew Greenhill, Intergovernmental Relations Manager, who fielded and answered questions regarding four bills on his report.

It was moved by Council Member Kozachik, duly seconded, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7 to 0, to approve the recommendations in the report and oppose HB2190, HB2295, HB2309, and HB2668.

Discussion ensued regarding bill HR1. Postal legislation bills, HCM205 and PFAS remediation/litigation.

**10. Mayor and Council Discussion of Regular Agenda (City Wide) SS/APR06-21-80**

No items were identified.

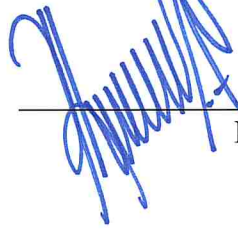
**11. Mayor and Council Discussion of Future Agendas (City Wide) SS/APR06-21-81**

Council Member Fimbres requested the following Study Session items be added:

- 5/4/18 – 15 min. for an update regarding changes to the Impact Fee structure, process and how funds are distributed.
- 5/18/21 – 20 min. for an update on the City's p-Card Program.

13. **ADJOURNMENT** – 6:14 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 6th day of April 2021, and do hereby certify that it is an accurate transcription.



DEPUTY CITY CLERK

RWR:yl