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## Minutes of SPECIAL MAYOR AND COUNCIL Meeting

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Approved by Mayor and Council  
on October 20, 2020.

Date of Meeting: July 21, 2020

**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 virtually in regular session using Microsoft TEAMS, at 8:33 p.m., on Tuesday, July 21, 2020, all members having been notified of the time and place thereof.

### 1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Romero and upon roll call, those present and absent were:

Present:

Lane Santa Cruz	Council Member Ward 1
Paul Cunningham	Vice Mayor, Council Member Ward 2
Paul Durham	Council Member Ward 3
Nikki Lee	Council Member Ward 4
Richard G. Fimbres	Council Member Ward 5
Steve Kozachik	Council Member Ward 6
Regina Romero	Mayor

Absent/Excused:

None

Staff Members Present:

Michael J. Ortega	City Manager
Michael Rankin	City Attorney
Roger W. Randolph	City Clerk

**2. FINANCE: FINAL BUDGET ADOPTION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 (CITY WIDE) JUL21-20-228**

Mayor Romero announced City Manager's communication number 228, dated July 21, 2020, was received into and made part of the record. She asked the City Clerk to read Resolution 23157 by number and title only.

Resolution No. 23157 relating to Finance; finally determining and adopting estimates of proposed expenditures by the City of Tucson for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, declaring that together said expenditures shall constitute the budget of the City of Tucson for such Fiscal Year and declaring that the 5 Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) has been approved with the first year of the CIP being adopted as part of the aforementioned budget.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Cunningham, duly seconded, to pass and adopt Resolution 23157.

Mayor Romero stated that she supported the budget because recent events throughout the country had sparked conversations on budgets. Similar events in terms of police circumstances; including the passing of Carlos Ingram-Lopez had initiated national conversation to the City's doorstep. She stated it was a sad time for Tucson, and she believed it was good for the Community to be engaged with the budget process. She indicated that the City's needs were complex and that a solution was not simple. She reiterated the importance of public housing, investment in mental health, drug dependency programs, public education and community beautification of low-income neighborhoods. She said that she would continue to fight for these issues that were presented to the Mayor and Council.

Council Member Santa Cruz stated that this was her first City Budget vote, and this was a responsibility she did not take lightly. She thanked the City Manager, and all his staff, for all their work in putting forth this recommended budget. She stated she understood the challenges brought forth due to the pandemic and the national outcry against police brutality. She reiterated to staff how much she appreciated the use of the participatory budgeting tool, and how it provided the community the opportunity to contribute their input to the budget process. She pointed out that the true spirit of a participatory budget was to empower people to decide together how to spend public money, to create and support participatory budgeting processes that deepen democracy, build stronger communities and make public budgets more equitable and effective.

Council Member Santa Cruz acknowledged the work of the Black Lives Matter and others who had mobilized the community and allies here in Tucson. She said that locally, at this present moment, these concerns were more evident due to the in-custody deaths of Carlos Adrian Ingram Lopez and Damián Alvarado in that we were still expecting too much from police officers in addressing medical and societal ills. She stated that she had voted in favor of the tentative budget but was not comfortable voting on the final adopted budget. She said, the budget as presented, did not consider the information received. She said there would be ongoing budget discussions every month, until the community's needs are included in the budget.

Vice Mayor Cunningham stated there were a few things that need to be discussed. He stated the Mayor and Council would be looking at these issues over the next five years; some sooner than others. He stated the Mayor and Council did not have some of the research they wanted. He said he understood that as time went by some, of the questions they had would be answered. He said the City still needed to function and it left the Mayor and Council wondering what to do next.

Council Member Cunningham commented that they did not have some of the research that they wanted. He reiterated on the type of police model the City needed and how it was be altered would be determined. He explained what some possible solutions could be in terms of responses to emergency calls. He said he was hopeful that further conversations would yield fruit to the changes of community policing. He stated that he looked forward to future discussions and how it would materialize over the next year. He stated that he wanted to make sure the City continued to operate despite the pandemic and the social issues they were currently facing.

Council Member Durham stated he believed the TPD budget could not be cut until alternatives were in place. He stated he wanted to work this year to build these alternatives.

Council Member Lee publicly thanked everyone that had reached out regarding these issues. She acknowledged that everyone was coming from a place where they wanted to make the community better. She stated that she appreciated the time and advocacy from everyone in the community who took the time to participate.

Council Member Kozachik thanked Mayor Romero for her comments. He stated that this conversation began in 2017, when the issue was brought to the voters in which a public safety tax was implemented. He stated that any changes brought on to the implementation would cause mistrust from the community. He thanked the City Manager and his staff for their work in establishing a budget that all could agree upon. He reiterated that the community spoke pretty loudly in the decision to approve this tax to fund public service. For the Mayor and Council to reallocate these monies, would be the wrong thing to do.

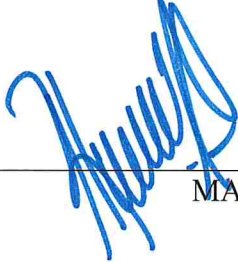
Mayor Romero asked if Council Member Kozachik was referring to the public safety pilot program. She stated that this was not the end of a conversation, but the beginning of a very important conversation. She stated this program was centered on community input and indicated that she looked forward to the continued dialogue.

Council Member Fimbres said that since his presence on the Mayor and Council, the City has faced budget issues in the past. He stated he believed that the Community Safety Plan ws another way to build strength in the community by working together and improving the quality of life for all Tucsonans. He thanked Mayor Romero and City Managers Ortega and Garland for their work.

The motion to pass and adopt Resolution 23157 was passed by a roll call vote of 6 to 1 (Council Member Kozachik dissenting).

3. **ADJOURNMENT: 8:55 p.m.**

Mayor Romero announced the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council would be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2020, at 5:30 p.m., in the Mayor and Council Chambers, City Hall, 255 West Alameda, Tucson, Arizona

  
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MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
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CITY CLERK

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

I, the undersigned, have read the foregoing transcript of the meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson, Arizona, held on the 21st day of July 2020, and do hereby certify that it is an accurate transcription.

  
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DEPUTY CITY CLERK

RWR:jc:amo