Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, held Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at the City of South Tucson Council Chambers, 1601 South 6th Avenue, South Tucson, Arizona.

Staff Present: John Vidaurri, City Manager
Veronica Moreno, City Clerk
Bobby Yu, City Attorney
Angel Lopez, Public Works Director
Manny Amado, Public Safety Director
Mick Jensen, Planning Dept.
Greg Hitt, Planner

Council Present: Bob Teso
Herman Lopez
Paul Diaz
Akanni Oyegbola
Rita Rogers
Anita Romero
Robert Romero

Others: Capt. Zapia, Arizona Rangers
Dennis Melin, Public Partnership
Alonso Garcia AMES

Mayor Teso called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #03 – MISSION STATEMENT

Councilwoman Rogers read the City’s Mission Statement.

ITEM #04 – ROLL CALL

All members of the Council were present.

ITEM #05 – CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

Mayor Teso: Speakers are limited to a three-minute oral presentation to address the Mayor and City Council on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Mayor and Council, except for items scheduled for a public hearing at the meeting, and may submit written comments of any length for the City Clerk’s files. Is there anyone in
the audience who would like to speak today? Let the record show there’s nobody in the audience that is speaking today.

ITEM #06 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES: NON-AVAILABLE

ITEM #07 – MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS: REPORTS OF CURRENT EVENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Teso: Do we have any reports?

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, on November 14 at 6:00 p.m., La Capilla Neighborhood Watch Program is going to have their meeting at Primavera Foundation over there by the market, at 6:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Rogers: Mr. Mayor, my report, I remember when we didn’t use to have Council reports and I explained to all my constituents that I could only talk to two people and never seven, except, without an open meeting. So a person called me yesterday and also came by and I’ll get more on it, but the marijuana being sold in the tobacco shop, four leaves at a time. And because this is a Special Meeting, I’ll wait until the Regular Meeting when people can come. I asked them to come and tell exactly, but I said I would be sure to get it under Reports where I can tell all instead of two people.

Mayor Teso: Okay. Do we have any other reports?

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, there’s going to be a block party. It’s called a Fiesta en la Calle, which is at the Ochoa Community School. And what they’re going to do is paint the streets again. And they, just like the one they did by Mission View. So that group is going to do that again.

Councilwoman Rogers: This Friday.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: This Friday. So, hope you all can attend.

Mayor Teso: It’s on 26th? 25th?

Vice-Mayor Lopez: No, 8th ...

Mayor Teso: They’re doing 25th and?

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Eighth.

Mayor Teso: And 8th, right?

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Yeah.
Mayor Teso: Okay. Do we have any future agenda items?

(No future agenda items from the Council)

ITEM #08 – CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENT HEADS: REPORTS TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mr. Vidaurri: Mr. Mayor, members of the Council, I have a couple of items. One is fiscal year 2019 General Fund unaudited financial statements, those have been placed in your mailboxes and they’re ready for your review. But we’re also going to go ahead and, and post an electric version online, so if you have any comments about the unaudited statements, please let me know. And the second thing is, as you know, U of A interns are conducting a survey of the community and one of the things they’ve asked the City to do is to incorporate a cover letter to the survey. The survey is part of the marketing plan that the interns are working on for the City of South Tucson. And they had asked if the Mayor could sign a cover letter to our citizens prefacing the survey itself before it goes out. I’ve provided copies of the sample cover letter that I prepared. And if you read it and want to offer any suggestions or recommendations regarding content, please let me know.

Acting Mayor Diaz: But is this survey now? Is this …

Mr. Vidaurri: The survey …

Acting Mayor Diaz: … the survey?

Mr. Vidaurri: … is actually, a sample survey was done about a week, week and a half ago. We had a couple of responses. We’re actually going back and revising that survey to incorporate an item that was left out of the original survey. The citizens were asked, in that survey, whether or not the City should consider renaming the City of South Tucson. However, they didn’t include …

(Simultaneous conversation)

Mr. Vidaurri: … what their thoughts were on what the name might be, if it were to be renamed, and so revising the survey to include that information. The survey contains a lot of questions related to demographics. Now some of these questions, our citizens may or may not want to answer and that’s perfectly fine. However, we would like as much participation as possible from the community and in terms of completing the surveys, we expect to use the mailing list that we did for the half-cent sales tax flier, and to get that out to as many people as we can.

Acting Mayor Diaz: So it won’t go to the general, the residents? Is that?

Mr. Vidaurri: Yes, it will go to the residents by mail with a return stamped envelope for them to send the surveys back to the City.
Acting Mayor Diaz: And this is done by the interns of the University?

Mr. Vidaurri: The survey ...

(Simultaneous conversation)

Mr. Vidaurri: ... instrument itself was prepared by U of A interns. Yes, sir.

Acting Mayor Diaz: And, so are, are they covering the cost of this or are we doing the cost also?

Mr. Vidaurri: We’re doing the printing of the survey document and paying for the postage. All in all, we expect that the total cost would be what we paid for for the half-cent sales tax flier, with the exception that we’re also including a return stamped envelope for convenience purposes for them to be able to get it back to us. So we’re looking at about an $800 or $900 expense overall to get some input from our citizens.

Acting Mayor Diaz: I remember that Primavera was also, had done a survey recently, or not recent, but have done surveys. I was just wondering if, that’s quite similar to this one here, but I know that they have done some. Is there any way that we can compare them after you get the results and see what’s changed?

Mr. Vidaurri: Mr. Mayor, Acting Mayor, that’s exactly what we would like to do is, I know that Primavera engaged in a survey of our business community recently. And they have done a citizen’s survey a couple of years ago, two or three years ago, if I’m not mistaken. But the idea is to compare their citizen’s survey with a current citizen’s survey to see what differences in perceptions and community opinions might be with respect to the services that are being provided, services that aren’t being provided, and what their thoughts are with respect to how we can improve what we’re doing so that we’re providing services that the community actually requests.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Councilwoman Rogers: Mr. Mayor, I’ll just say that I already verbally took the survey with Charity who was sort of (inaudible) etcetera. And I told her several things that I think are very important because I got feedback on them. And it said the City is considering changing the name of the city. And I wondered, and I said are interns now, are they now the definition of city because not changing the name of the city never came before the City Council and neither did this, this thing asking about their faith and how much money they, none of it came before the Council. And if it’s going to have me up for re-election saying that I authored this, I did not. The questions in there are very not so good for the people. My opinion. Especially the City. I thought who is the City? It wasn’t here with seven people that were elected by the people. That’s all.

Mayor Teso: Any other comments?

(No comments from the Council)
Mr. Vidaurri: Mr. Mayor, we’ve got one other item under Reports to Mayor and Council. And that’s from our Police Chief. He has a couple of members from the Arizona Rangers. There had been a question about what the Rangers can and can’t do. And so, they’re here this evening to help answer those questions.

Chief Amado: Mr. Mayor, members of the Council, as City Manager Vidaurri has stated, a couple of meetings ago, I believe it was Acting Mayor Paul Diaz that had asked what authority do the Arizona Rangers have and I gave a very basic response based on what I know. I felt that the best people to talk about what their authority is, as well as touch on what kind of training they’ve been undergoing with us, and how they came to the City of South Tucson, that that would best come from Captain Zapia, just sitting right behind me. And this Council, and even the previous Council to a small degree, I think I’ve spoken ad nauseum as to our shortages, so I’m not gonna beat that dead horse. But because of our shortages, it’s caused all of us, including myself on the Police and Fire side, to start thinking outside the box on how we’re going to meet the needs of the citizens and address the issues such as the homeless, the prostitutes, the drug dealers, the drug houses. Obviously, two officers on shift are not going to take care of all of that. We have to look at some type of auxiliary assistance with that. In the last several months, and I believe I did bring it to this Council once before, of how we were going to utilize the Arizona Rangers to assist us and they’ve been doing a phenomenal job with prisoner transports. Prior to them taking over prisoner transport, I had to take an officer off the field sometimes for two to four hours just to shuttle prisoners from the jail to here, and do their Court appearance. There could be six of them, there could be five of them, there could be two of them. And then shuttle them back, which left one officer out in the field to take calls. Now during day shift, myself or Commander Shonk would assist as we could to cover. We would get away from our duties, our administrative duties, and go do that. Since the Rangers have taken over, it’s relieved a lot of stress and it has really freed up the officers to do what they need to do out in the field. So we look at expanding that out to regular patrol, not just on day shift with prisoner transport, but also with being eyes and ears on the swing shift and the graveyard shift. As I mentioned before, they are not police officers, but they do receive an amount of training. And I’ll have Captain Zapia speak more to that. In the last month or so, they have been training with our officers, our training instructors, our defense tactics instructor, our Taser instructor has trained them, along with some other agencies, put classes together so that from a liability standpoint, they know what we know. And if we need to defend it, or Mr. Yu needs to defend it, we can say that training is consistent. So, with that being said, I’ll turn it over to Captain Zapia so he can speak a little bit more to that.

Capt. Zapia: Mayor, Council members, the Arizona Rangers are an all-volunteer organization. The original Rangers started in 1901. They were disbanded in 1907 due to political reasons. Arizona was a territory back then. In the mid ‘50s, several of the original Arizona Rangers approached the Governor and the State Legislature about bringing them back on a limited basis. The State Legislature agreed. Ever since 1957, the State Legislature, in their bills to the Governor for signature on an annual basis, address the existence of the Arizona Rangers. We are not cops. We’re volunteers. Most Rangers have some tie or some experience with law enforcement. In the Tucson Company, which I’m the Commander of, we have ex-Tucson police people. We have ex-Pima County Deputies. We have several ex-military police. We constantly train. Our training is the same as AZPOST training for POST certified officers. So, qualifications with our firearms, it’s the same. As often as we can for tactics, we follow law enforcement. When we work with any agency, we are the same as them. Pima County Sheriffs Department, we work with their DUI details. I’m a member of the Southern Arizona DUI Task Force. When we’re working with them, anything they ask us to do, we do. They say,
handcuff that guy, put him in the back of my squad car, we don’t hesitate. We have the same authority that they give us as a Marshall can give to, or a Sheriff can give to, to somebody that’s been deputized. We’ve been working real close with you folks now for over three years, almost four years. It started in the courtroom. We then, as the Chief mentioned, assist with prisoner transports, and it’s now Arizona Rangers doing the prisoner transports. We’re currently receiving training to be second man. We know our limitations. We’re not cops. There will be times that we’re called on. We have a brand new category and we’re the first Company in the state, there’s 22 companies statewide, we have what’s called Law Enforcement Extended. It’s not intended for old, fat, grey-haired guys like me. It’s intended for guys that look like him that are physically, you can laugh, it’s the truth. I mean I know my limitations and I, I don’t pretend to be something that I’m not. But our group in Tucson we tend to be trendsetters. For many, many years, the State would look at things that Tucson Company was innovative with and right now, what we’re doing with the South Tucson, there’s a lot of people looking at us. I wouldn’t take it on if I didn’t think we’d be successful. And that’s for both of us. I don’t want to embarrass us, and I certainly don’t want to embarrass you. That’s kind of a little bit of the background. If you have any questions, I’d be happy to try to answer them. But I brought Walter. Walter is a former Tucson Company Commander. And he is LEA extended. So he’s been through some of the training and he’ll probably be working with other officers in South Tucson. Can I answer some questions? Yes, sir?

Councilman Romero: A while back ago, South Tucson, the officers were going to arrest a person. And then all of a sudden, she started claiming that she was sick. She had to go to the hospital. They didn’t arrest her because as the officer said, we do it with one person, they’d have to be sitting over there babysitting. Is that something that you guys would be willing to do? If we arrest someone and they claim medical emergency, would the Rangers be able to go sit, babysit them until the officers come back and arrest her, to release her and charge her?

Capt. Zapia: The answer is yes. But we wouldn’t take on that authority without the Chief approving it.

Councilman Romero: Okay.

Capt. Zapia: We are not going to assume anything.

Councilman Romero: I’m assuming that the, Mr. Amado would call you guys, hey, ...

Capt. Zapia: Yes.

Councilman Romero: … we, we gotta transport somebody to Kino or something.

Capt. Zapia: And, and we’ve done other duties for South Tucson even prior to him becoming the Chief. We’ve been called on to be, I don’t know what I would call it, at a hospital, when a person that’s been admitted needs to be, make sure that he doesn’t do something before he’s actually booked into jail.

Councilman Romero: Okay.

Capt. Zapia: We’ve also protected scenes.
Capt. Zapia: We’ve also protected scenes where something has happened and they, they need some time to get the warrants, and nobody can touch, go in or out of. We’ve protected those scenes as well. We’re an armed uniform presence. We’re very unique. There aren’t a lot of people, we’re not security guards. People misunderstood and think that we’re security guards. We do security details, but it’s not the reason we exist. We exist, we’re a law enforcement support organization. And I can share the Arizona Revised Statute, if you’d like, and you can look it up and see how they, they acknowledge and recognize us.

Councilman Romero: That’s the question I had because if say Mr. Amado has to go over and, and sit there at Kino, that takes one officer off the field. This way, if something, like one of you guys can go over and sit there and babysit until they can arrest ‘em and then Mr. Amado can go back and do his job.

Capt. Zapia: We’ve actually done it for years. Prior to his ...

Councilman Romero: Okay, yeah.

Capt. Zapia: … (inaudible) Chief, but we’re, we’re, and, and we’re prepared to do that.

Councilman Romero: That’s the only question I have for you.

Capt. Zapia: And we ...

Councilman Romero: Thank you.

Capt. Zapia: … (inaudible) extremely short notice. I think one call I got, we responded in 15 minutes.

Councilman Romero: Cool.

Capt. Zapia: So we’re prepared to do that. Yes, sir?

Vice-Mayor Lopez: How many people do you plan on utilizing? Say like on a weekly basis for instance.

Capt. Zapia: Well, it’s up to the Chief. I have eleven Rangers that have been identified to meet the qualifications that I feel are LEA Extended.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Right.

Capt. Zapia: He has the ultimate say. Of that group of eleven, he could say, Henry, I don’t want this guy, or whatever. So he gets to select from that group. At any time, he can change the parameters of that. He can say, okay, these guys are too old and fat. I need young, skinny guys. I mean I’m exaggerating, but you understand what I’m trying to say. It’s not our call. It’s the department’s call.
Vice-Mayor Lopez: Thank you.

Chief Amado: I’m a little more polite about it. We would have a conversation.

Capt. Zapia: Yes, sir?

Councilman Oyegbola: Quick question. How soon would you, would your agency be able to start this new, I guess shift from the courthouse to assisting the Chief and Chief, would you be able to utilize them in different strategies in operations, things like that?

Chief Amado: Councilman Oyegbola, as soon as possible would be the answer. Now, the reason it’s taken this long is, obviously with starting something new like this, new territory so to speak, we want to make sure that all the legal obligations are met so that none of us in here are facing another lawsuit. So it took a lot of research, not only on the part of the Arizona Rangers and their attorneys and their risk company, but also with Mr. Yu. We have a memorandum of understanding between us, which is different than an intergovernmental agreement. That would come to you folks if it’s between two governments. This is between agencies. The attorneys looked at it. Southwest Risk looked at it and finally, after several months, it was blessed and we started moving forward with the training. So, just recently, about, I think it was two weeks ago, they just finished firearms training with our firearms instructor. That was one of the agreements, as well as defensive tactics and that’s still coming up, and Taser training with us. And if they’re out there with us, riding with us, doing something under the (inaudible) of our authority and something happens, I answer for it. And eventually, the City answers for it. We have to be able to defend it. Mr. Yu, as the City Attorney, has to be able to defend it. This is an arena that I’ve been in before as the Chief. This is my (inaudible) as the Chief. And I’ve faced these kinds of tasks and challenges before. So, I know (inaudible) what it is that we need to do and not do. So, as soon as we can get the training accomplished, they’ll start first riding with the officer as a second man. We call it a Baker Unit, which is good because then if we do have an officer that needs to go to the, you know, to the hospital to sit with a prisoner or needs to book somebody in, that backup is already in the vehicle. So, we, we can do that. I should mention that I’ve been working with the Arizona Rangers for about 25 years in some capacity or another; with the Southern Arizona DUI Task Force. I’ve seen what they do. I’m very confident in their abilities. I have the upmost trust in Henry and the Company. And as he said, we’ve already utilized them. If it were not for the Rangers, and myself utilizing them in surveillance, we would not have gotten the information that we did in regards to our, our suspect that was breaking windows. That information was shared with us. I have utilized them. When we were having the fires on West 27th Street, obviously, one or two cops isn’t going to be able to babysit that. Guess who could? The Rangers could. And they were eyes and ears for us. They helped get some suspect information for us on that. So, I’ve already been using them in some capacity under the direction of the on-duty Sergeant. But as the Captain states, ultimately they’re working under my authority. So, I will dictate what it is that they and what they don’t do. And, of course, I’ll, I speak with the City Manager if there’s anything, and Mr. Yu, especially Mr. Yu, if there is anything that I think might be questionable as far as what they do. But we hope to get them out there just as soon as possible. And in regards to Vice-Mayor Lopez’s question, at first it’s a couple more per shift, riding with an officer. Then
eventually, maybe utilizing them as a separate patrol. There needs to be that trust built between the officers and them. You know, that he’s got their back and they’ve got his back whenever there’s a bad situation out there.

Councilman Oyegbola: One more quick comment. I think just having that, that partnership develop and having just being out there, not only will the residents appreciate it but, ‘cause it is needed and, you know, this comes up a lot, just having that presence shown with, with the officers (inaudible) and bringing them on.

Chief Amado: Yes, sir.

Acting Mayor Diaz: I have a question. In regards to with, I feel that the residents are asking for is their priorities are patrolling and animal control.

Chief Amado: I’m not sure about the animal control part. I’m not Pima County. We do respond to animal control calls when there is an immediate threat. Usually, by the time we get there, they’re gone. That is something that possibly, you know, the Rangers can address.

Acting Mayor Diaz: And patrolling?

Chief Amado: Patrolling is, eventually where the point that I want to get to. We talked about this, discussed it with Mr. Yu, discussed it with the attorneys and, of course, the insurance people. It’s something that once they get turned loose on their own, we need to kind of ease in on it. And it will be sooner rather than later. They need to get to know the City. They need to get know how we operate, how we patrol, and then eventually, they can also start patrolling. So they’ll be, it’s not to where we were 10 years ago with six officers on shift. But we can’t keep going the way we are now. And I’m not gonna throw my hands up and go, oh, well, that’s all I got. I gotta try to look at ways to address the concerns that keep coming forward not only at this Council, but to you as elected officials. ‘Cause I hear it. You know, I hear it. The prostitutes, the drug dealers, the homeless. Yes, they’re out there. Hoping to start getting the word out there that there’s more eyes and ears. And you heard the Beltrans talk about Neighborhood Watch, last meeting, and how they are patrolling their neighborhood. Word’s gotten out. But what happens is they patrol their neighborhood, their neighborhood is fine. And then they head over to Spanish Trail, or they head over to another area. You know, the more eyes and ears that we have out there, the quicker we can just push ‘em out of the City. Honestly.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Okay. Thank you.

Councilman Romero: Thank you, sir.

Councilman Oyegbola: Thank you.

Mayor Teso: Thank you.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Thank you very much.
Chief Amado: Thank you.

**ITEM #09 – PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP PRESENTATION BY ALLAN GETMAN (15 MIN)**

Mr. Melin: Honorable Mayor and Council, staff and guests, I’m, again, I’m Dennis Melin. I live at 2550 East River Road, Tucson, 85718. I’m President of the Public Partnership, a Tucson non-profit. Our mission, we fight poverty. Watch out. Ask us how we do it. We’re also a Primavera Foundation community resource. Primavera Men’s Shelter has implemented our Arizona Free Money Program on August 1st to help homeless men get the money they deserve from the Arizona State’s Treasury.

Mr. Getman: Yeah, there’s packets right there when people come, new people, and it’s right there to fill out and show ‘em how to get money and that’s how I met Dennis.

Mr. Melin: This is Al Getman and Thea Luisa. My wife, Nancy, is also here. When I’m through, I’ll leave you a couple packets of information which will include the posters that I’m going to show to you. First of all, make sure we got the first poster. We fight poverty by building bridges. Building bridges between those that have money and those that don’t have money. And those that don’t have money include those living in poverty. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, two thousand, six hundred and thirty of the City of Tucson’s residents are living in poverty. That’s 46%, nearly one out of every two. And should each one of those 2,630 receive $100 as a result of participating in our Arizona Free Money Program, that will total $263,000 that the State of Arizona Treasury will send to the residents of the City of South Tucson. That’s a quarter of a million dollars coming from the State of Arizona to the people that live here in your City.

Mr. Getman: Which is basically gonna be spent where they live because it’s not enough to go to Disneyland. Well, I mean they need shoes, clothes, bus fare. I mean it’s money that they don’t know about. Arizona law, 40 pages, we’re the, what we do is one, fourth page from the back, one line, of course you’re gonna miss it. Every meeting I set up with Jonathon Rothschild, I have a dozen under my belt, and we got a couple more, Elias coming up, anyhow, nobody knows about it. And all we gotta do is spread the word and people that got, are eligible to get money.

Mr. Melin: Our program includes four very little known components. When I say literally unknown, the State of Arizona doesn’t want to tell anybody about these programs because they want to keep all the money to themselves. They have a billion dollars in the State Treasury. If every one of the million people in Arizona living in poverty received $100, that’s $100,000,000. One million people in Arizona are living in poverty; two thousand some here in the City of South Tucson. The programs that we have is the City of, the Arizona Department of Revenue has two forms you can fill out, if you’re living in poverty, or poor, or disabled, or elderly, that can provide $25 to $100 every year for a family. Or, if you own a house, or rent from somebody who pays property taxes, there’s a form you can fill out and get $527, up to $602 every year. That’s every year from the State of Arizona.
Mr. Getman: What’s left now at the end of this year to last day of the summer is $25 a person up to a family of four. And the next, okay, the big one for, I rent, I pay $525, so whatever the property owner pays in taxes, I get back with no cost to the landlord. So, first when I met him on a TV program, can I speak?

Mr. Melin: Yeah, sure.

Mr. Getman: That’s (inaudible). Lucky I was channel surfing and it was a live news broadcast in the morning and it’s like are you at poverty level? Well, I came here from Chicago to be a caregiver for a childhood sweetheart when her disease progressed. I came here to flip houses and, you know, make money. Well, that didn’t work out. I tried. But anyhow, knew it was a live program. So I wrote his number down. I waited an hour, I called and he answered. The next day, came to my house, gave me the forms, helped me fill ‘em out. He mailed ‘em for me. About five a half weeks later, I get a check for $499. Whoa! Because that morning when I seen him, I had nothing to eat, no bus fare. I had to move away from the girl that we were splittin’ the rent. I’m on Social Security, the disability, on a shoestring. So, right now, I had to try, okay, first year I got $499. Second year, (inaudible).

Mr. Melin: Yeah, $500.

Mr. Getman: And then this year, I got $527.

Mr. Melin: Yeah, right.

Mr. Getman: So.

Mr. Melin: That’s it. That’s ...

Mr. Getman: I wouldn’t have ever known about this. My neighbors, for three years, I’ve been giving ‘em cards. They, they don’t believe me. It’s like you, you’re lying. What do you just want our social security number? No. You fill out the social security number. Here’s the stamp. Mail it. I mean isn’t it a good thing to know that nobody (inaudible) ...

Unknown: Well, we pay for all the mailing of everything and all that.

Mr. Getman: And so I (inaudible) and I introduce her to Dennis and she’s basically the same thing as me. Thank you, Dennis.

Mr. Melin: Yes, you bet. Also, the Pima County Assessor has three programs, which nobody knows about. One of the programs is you can defer paying your property taxes until you die, or you sell your house. There are certain qualifications you have to go through. Other ones, you can reduce the amount of your assessed value, or you can freeze the assessed value on your house whether you’re an owner who rents, or an owner who lives there, doesn’t make a difference, as long as you qualify. And then, of course, the utilities and phone companies have rate reduction programs. We help people fill those forms out.
Mr. Getman: Yeah, it’s a small amount that I didn’t know about. So, it’s $15 discount on TEP and I think I get $6 on the gas. And then there’s more sewer, you know, but I’m a renter and.

Unknown: You still pay for sewer. You still pay for all that.

Mr. Getman: No, but I, well, the, the landlord (inaudible) get money back, but I’m saying ...

Unknown: (Inaudible) the rent.

Mr. Melin: And one more thing, there is a little known place to get money called Unclaimed Money. Anybody, any bank or business that has money that they don’t know what to do with, that they send it to the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer holds onto it until someone figures out that they got it. Unfortunately, they had my name, my address, my son’s name and my son’s address, but they didn’t call us and tell us that they had our money. We had to look it up ...

Mr. Getman: So he researches ...

Mr. Melin: ... (inaudible) ...

Mr. Getman: ... and there was ...

Mr. Melin: ... (inaudible).

Mr. Getman: ... money for him and his son that they had the information and their excuse was what? They didn’t have ...

Mr. Melin: They, there’s no excuse. They just don’t, they don’t outreach to the ...

Mr. Getman: So he, he ...

Mr. Melin: ... (inaudible).

Mr. Getman: ... already spoke to two head people at the, what, IRS? He’s gonna have a Statewide (inaudible) webinar saying this. So right now, somebody retires, somebody took over (inaudible) so now he’s like starting all over again. But we’re hoping by, before the end of the year or close to that he’s gonna be on the, he has also produced five You Tube spots explaining what we’re doing. So I’m the guy that’s helping to spread the word. That’s why, you know, his passion rubbed off onto me ‘cause it, it’s real. It’s not, you know, we’re trying to get your number, deport you. You know, it’s, it’s just a law that nobody sees, nobody knows, so it helped me so I’m gonna help other people, you know.

Mr. Melin: And one last thing. In order to get from where we’re at now, 2019 and 2020, where it’s 46% poverty and 54% not, and of course, the 54% that are not in poverty can donate money to us and we then help
the people that are in poverty to fill out all the forms. They get a tax credit against their Arizona tax bill when they donate to a charity like us.

Mr. Getman: Right. And then that’s, we have not got one single penny from a grant. We want to stay in operation. Okay. So, three and a half years he started this, his gas, his time, these posters, he’s paying for it just to get the word out, so we need some grants. If you know anybody that, you know, that has grants available. I mean he is not making any money at all, so I mean we want to stay helping people, but, you know, money is gonna run out if.

Mr. Melin: The purpose of this is to say how do we get from where we’re at today to some other better demographics. If in the next 10 years we can move from 46% to 35% in poverty, and then by the 100th anniversary in 2040, if we could reduce that so 25% are in poverty, that happens to match the City of Tucson. In the City of Tucson, 25% of the residents are living in poverty, but it takes a whole community and the whole community includes the residents, the businesses, the religious organizations, the non-profits and, etcetera, etcetera. It can’t be done by itself. We wish the Mayor and Council could make an edict and say, “We’re going to solve poverty.” But our program will not get you out of poverty. It will get you $100, $500, $600 every year.

Unknown: It just helps.

Mr. Getman: Oh, yeah. It helped both of us.

Mr. Melin: So, I do have two packets of, oh, I’m sorry. Yes?

Vice-Mayor Lopez: What branches of the government are a part, participating in your program here? See, you just …

Mr. Melin: This is the …

Vice-Mayor Lopez: … got the word government, but …

Mr. Melin: The, the Arizona Department of Revenue is the Department that process the forms. If you file a tax return, they process the forms. State law says if you aren’t required to file an income tax return, you can file a simple form to apply to get money. You’re actually claiming the money that the law says is yours. And it’s called a Claim Form. You’re claiming the money that the government has holding for you until you file a form. It’s voluntary, can’t force you to file. But I’m going to be talking to the State of Arizona Revenue Department again. I’ve met with the number two guy, Dr. Grant (inaudible), and I’ve told them, you’ve gotta get these programs out from underneath the bushel basket. You have to educate everybody in the State of Arizona about the tax law, the Constitution that provides free money to people that are in poverty, or elderly, or disabled. Thank you so much, appreciate …

Mr. Getman: That’s what …
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Mr. Melin: ... your time.

Mr. Getman: ... (inaudible).

Councilman Oyegbola: I’ve got a quick question. On your form over there, you had religious organizations listed next to community where it says Catholic and ...

Mr. Melin: Yeah, ...

Councilman Oyegbola: ... (inaudible).

Mr. Melin: ... Jewish and other.

Councilman Oyegbola: What would the reason for those? Are they contributing members or (inaudible)?

Mr. Melin: The basic reason is they’re a very vital part of the community and they’re very important to get the message out ...

Mr. Getman: Yeah, out ...

Mr. Melin: ... to their, ...

Councilman Oyegbola: Okay.

Mr. Melin: ... to their community.

Councilman Oyegbola: So, I have another quick question. So if we did a survey and we wanted to find out some of those residents as far as some of that background demographic information, would that be helpful?

Mr. Melin: Absolutely.

Councilman Oyegbola: Okay.

Mr. Melin: Now, we do know that you can’t force anybody to voluntarily sign a form to ...

Councilman Oyegbola: Sure.

Mr. Melin: ... apply for money.

Mr. Getman: See, a lot of people are embarrassed. They don’t, they don’t want to say they need help and, you know, so they get, they just, you want their, their information. It’s nothing like that. I mean it’s a, it’s, it’s, it’s not easy to give away free money. Do you believe that?
Councilman Oyegbola: Thank you.

Mr. Melin: Thank you all. I appreciate the …

(Simultaneous conversation)

Mr. Melin: … opportunity to say hello.

Mr. Getman: And then I only brought 10 raffle tickets. Jim Click is sponsoring a lot of organizations so you have to get ‘em before they’re gone. But we, I got more at home. And so, yeah.

Acting Mayor Diaz: What would our role be in this partnership as far, is that, you’re requesting to use our logo? Is that more or less what you’re doing or?

(Simultaneous conversation)

Mr. Getman: No, we just need you to …

(Simultaneous conversation)

Mr. Getman: … help spread the word and …

(Simultaneous conversation)

Mr. Getman: … give us a call. We’ll come out. We, we just had a meeting downtown with another, who, who was up there last week? I know I’m going crazy with the names. You’re Veronica, right? I spoke with you. I never met you. I’m the guy that kept calling. But anyhow, we parked under the library so on the way out, I asked to see if the Manager was in. She was in and she gave us authorization, well, through Mathewson, what’s her name?

Mr. Melin: (Inaudible).

Mr. Getman: Linda, okay. I, she, she got back with me and said I, I can do it but I have to ask each individual library manager. Okay. So we’re already approved there. We can’t tape posters on. We can’t go inside. We gotta go outside and, no smoking, of course.

Mr. Melin: Yeah, like right here, you have the library.

Mayor Teso: Right.

Mr. Melin: We have forms. We have instructions. We tell people very simple. You got six questions to answer. Are you an Arizona resident? Do you have a social security …
Mr. Getman: Yeah, so …

Mr. Melin: … number?

Mr. Getman: … that would be your, your guys’ job to help us get the word out, let us know when, and if you, if, I (inaudible) if we could tape some posters or something. but we’ll bring, you know, some envelopes, some stamps, but again, he’s paying for it. Give us an advance notice so we could, you know, have some people here and I’m sure anybody that sees it, why wouldn’t they get it? You know. So, …

Unknown: They know about it, then they can start getting the …

Mr. Getman: Yeah, but …

Unknown: … money.

Mr. Getman: … nobody knows about it.

Unknown: Until we get the word out, we can’t do anything. We have to go like literally, door to door for each person and be like, are you in poverty? Are you at this amount? And, you know, that’s gonna be, that’s hard to do. There’s only two of us and him. And one other person. There’s only four people who are doing this and it’s, it’s hard to get the word out.

Mr. Melin: Very quickly, the poverty level in the United States, excluding Alaska and Hawaii, one thousand a month if you’re an individual person, you are living in poverty. If you have a family of four, two thousand a month is living in poverty. So, …

Mr. Getman: (Inaudible) …

Mr. Melin: … (inaudible).

Mr. Getman: … (inaudible). That’s not (inaudible).

Mr. Melin: Thank you again. I appreciate the opportunity.

Councilwoman Rogers: Thank you. Thank you very much.

(Simultaneous conversation)

Councilman Oyegbola: Did you leave us with your contact information?

Mr. Melin: Pardon me?

Councilman Oyegbola: Did you leave us with your contact information?
Mr. Melin: Yes, I’m leaving this here …

Mr. Getman: Yes, you guys …

Mr. Melin: … (inaudible).

Mr. Getman: … could do that for us and then give us advance notice and then we’ll bring a table and chairs and then people will be here and we’ll get, we’ll help ‘em fill it out and they’ll get money. So, yeah, we have 100% backing after every meeting that I set.

Mayor Teso: Right.

Mr. Getman: Nobody knew about it. From the Mayor, to you, you were the first and then it was Jonathon Rothschild.

Mayor Teso: Right.

Mr. Getman: Now, tomorrow, we’re gonna go see the new Mayor at City Hall, so I’m doing pretty good, but you know, everybody tells somebody. It’s gonna get out that there’s money here. Alright. Thank you everybody.

Mayor Teso: Thank you.

Councilwoman Rogers: Thank you.

Councilman Oyegbola: Thank you. Mr. Mayor, if you don’t mind if I can get their contact and put them in contact with the interns.

Mayor Teso: Sure.

Councilman Oyegbola: ‘Cause a lot of this is actually vital to what they’re already doing and if they match it up, it’s, it’s sort of like in line with, with what they’re doing.

Mayor Teso: Okay.

Councilman Oyegbola: Thank you.

ITEM #10 – RESOLUTION NO. 19-43 OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA (“CITY”), AUTHORIZING AND SUPPORTING AN APPLICATION BY THE CITY FOR A SHARE OF THE GAMING REVENUES TO BE DISTRIBUTED BY THE PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES THAT BENEFIT THE GENERAL PUBLIC
Mr. Vidaurri: Mr. Mayor, members of the Council, Mick Jensen is going to be working, I believe, on this particular application. The City would be requesting Pascua Yaqui gaming revenues for the purchase of four patrol vehicles. The total amount of the request is for $232,348. The average cost to purchase an equipped patrol unit is $58,000. And so, that’s basically what the grant is asking for. And I think it’s noted in the agenda report from Mick Jensen, in 2006, the City did receive $200,000 for a garbage truck from the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. Staff is recommending approval of the resolution.

Mayor Teso: Okay. Do we have any questions?

(No questions from the Council)

Acting Mayor Diaz: Mr. Mayor, hearing no questions, I move that Resolution No. 19-43 of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson authorizing and supporting an application by the City for a share of the gaming revenues to be distributed by the Pascua Yaqui Tribe for government services that benefit the general public.

Councilman Romero: Second.

Mayor Teso: Is there any discussion?

(No discussion by Council)

Mayor Teso: Okay. Going to Roll Call. Mr. Oyegbola.
Councilman Oyegbola: Aye.
Mayor Teso: Mr. Romero.
Councilman Romero: Aye.
Mayor Teso: Mr. Diaz.
Acting Mayor Diaz: Aye.
Mayor Teso: Ms. Romero.
Councilwoman Romero: Aye.
Mayor Teso: Ms. Rogers.
Councilwoman Rogers: Aye.
Mayor Teso: Mr. Lopez.
Vice-Mayor Lopez: Yes.
Mayor Teso: Aye. Motion carries.

ITEM #11 – ORDINANCE NO. 19-14 OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA, RELATING TO ZONING; REZONING PROPERTY IN CASE P&Z 19-001 R & R STEEL FABRICATION REZONING OF APPROXIMATELY .3 ACRES FROM SB-2 (BUSINESS DISTRICT) TO SI-1 (LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT), AMENDING THE SOUTH TUCSON ZONING MAP
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Mr. Vidaurri: Mr. Mayor, members ...

Mayor Teso: Mr. Greg.

Mr. Vidaurri: ... of the Council, the Planning and Zoning Commission met and reviewed this item. Mr. Hitt has a presentation for you this evening.

Mr. Hitt: Thank you, Mayor, members of the Council. Actually, I’ll be pretty brief as your description there pretty much described what it is. It’s .3 acres that’s at the end of 28th Street. It’s the last two lots on the south side of the street, right up against the railroad track. The structure has been in place since the late ‘80’s (inaudible) about 1988, 1989. They total about 2,000 square feet, so about 2,000 out of the 13,000 square feet’s occupied structure. The site, historically, has been operated as a contractor’s type of yard. And the applicant, who can’t be here tonight because he is actually traveling, I spoke to him earlier today. He’s traveling. He got stuck somewhere in the Midwest because of weather, so he’s, unfortunately, not able to be here and present to you as well. But he owns a steel fabrication shop. And so he’s just trying to rezone his property so he can bring the property in conformance with the Zoning Code. Staff has not received any objection. We did not receive any objection from internal staff, the P & Z, or any of the public. So, with that, staff recommends approval of rezoning the property from SB-2 to SI-1.

Councilman Romero: I was talking to Lorenzo there, he lives on twenty, he has property on 29th, the only issue I would have with this is that these guys are spraying steel outside in the open, that they would put a containment building or something of some sort so the paint and fumes don’t go into the neighbor’s, especially when summer comes in, all that stuff will be going into the coolers. That’s the only stipulation I would have on, on ...

Mr. Hitt: Okay.

Councilman Romero: ... approving this.

Mr. Hitt: Okay. We’ll make sure that they, any paint spray and things like that, treatment (inaudible) be done indoors.

Councilwoman Rogers: Mr. Mayor, I personally, I was able to drive by ‘cause I always like to do due diligence on these new zonings and I was very concerned about the neighbor and the, the people near the tracks and all that, and it looked all fine, good for me. So, but I like that extra thing that Councilman Romero brought up. Other than that, was, pretty much fit in to what was on 28th Street. But we don’t want it spitting at your place. (Inaudible).

Mr. Garcia: Can I say something? I’m ...

Mayor Teso: Typically not ...
Mr. Garcia: ... (inaudible). My, my name is Alonso Garcia. I’m at 29th. I have, I own a business at 535 East 29th. I don’t have any problem with this property. It’s a business. I’m pro-business. The, the only problem is they sa-, he’s, they send fliers to the neighbors. I never got one. The only thing I got is the, the Chief that says that we’re gonna have this meeting. So, that’s not true. One second it’s, that’s, that’s a very small place for the, for the kind of work they’re gonna do. That’s a heavy, heavy structural work they do. I mean that’s okay to me. If they comply with State and City, it’s okay to me. But what I don’t like is double standards, you know. We’re gonna apply one thing to one, now (inaudible) doing it to another. And I won’t mention another one. On twenty, on 18th, (inaudible) there is a painting shop over there. You’re supposed to be industrial paint. And the painting, and, and the, and the place is next to a restaurant. And one time, we talked about no more permits for painting on this side of 2nd Avenue. Most of the industrial side is gonna be on the railroad track because there is a lot of body shops and (inaudible). So, there is one over there and who gave the permission to rezone the place. It’s not my business, but don’t play with double standards. That’s, that’s the only thing. If it’s gonna be, if you’re gonna be an anarchy, business anarchy in Tucson, well, let’s keep doing what we’re doing. And I’m not, you’re not gonna see me here any more. But if we, I hear a lot that we try to fix South Tucson, make it a better place, well let’s start doing it. So, that’s my comment. Thank you.

Councilwoman Rogers: Thank you.

Mayor Teso: Thank you.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Thank you very much.

Mayor Teso: Are there any other comments?

(No comments from the Council)

Mayor Teso: Okay. No other questions for Mr. Hitt?

Councilman Romero: The only thing I’ll suggest on this thing is to put in a stipulation that they put a building up or some type of barrier for when they’re spraying. If you write that into the ordinance, we’d probably okay it.

Mr. Hitt: If I may make a suggestion, Council member Romero, when you make, well, when someone makes a motion, just include that as a condition. There’s, right now, there’s one condition. Just make that the second condition that any painting be done within an enclosed building.

Councilman Romero: Okay.

Councilwoman Rogers: Mr. Mayor, I thought it was about the spraying of metal.

Mr. Hitt: Mayor, Council member, that’s correct. It, it’s about spraying metal, but it’s, apparently, and I’m not familiar with it, but apparently, they are spraying metal outdoors with paint.
Councilwoman Rogers: Oh, with paint.

Mr. Hitt: Yeah.

Councilwoman Rogers: Okay.

Councilman Romero: If I may make a comment. Most of that, Rita, now is water based. It smells like crazy, but it’s basically harmless.

Mayor Teso: Okay.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Mr. Mayor, hearing no more comments, I move for Ordinance No. 19-14 of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, relating to zoning, rezoning property in Case P & Z 19-001 R & R Steel Fabrication rezoning of approximately .3 acres from SB-2 (Business District) to SI-1 (Light Industry), with stipulations mentioned, and amending the South Tucson Zoning Map.

Councilman Romero: Second.

Councilwoman Rogers: (Inaudible) discussion is available.

Mayor Teso: Do we have any ...

Councilwoman Rogers: Yeah, I just ...

Mayor Teso: … discussion?

Councilwoman Rogers: … want to know if somebody could recite again for me the stipulations before I vote? What are the stipulations?

Councilman Romero: Well, one of the stipulations is that they put a building up or an enclosure when they’re spraying to eliminate a lot of the smell and the, the overspray and whatnot.

Acting Mayor Diaz: And the other one was?

Councilwoman Rogers: What’s the other one?

Mr. Hitt: Yes, Mayor and Council members, the first, the first condition is a standard condition in rezonings and it goes back to the property, or Prop 207 regulations from ten, twelve years ago. And they just have to sign a waiver, basically, as part of this condition. But then number two is the, the stipulation you clarified on, painting indoors only.

Councilwoman Rogers: Alright. Thank you.
Mr. Vidaurri: Mr. Mayor, members of the Council, is there a second to that motion?

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Yes.

Mayor Teso: Yes.

Mr. Vidaurri: Thank you.

Mayor Teso: There was actually two seconds, I think. Okay. So, any other discussion?

(No discussion from the Council)

Mayor Teso: Okay. Mr. Oyegbola.
Councilman Oyegbola: Aye.
Mayor Teso: Mr. Romero.
Councilman Romero: Aye.
Mayor Teso: Mr. Diaz.
Acting Mayor Diaz: Aye.
Mayor Teso: Ms. Romero.
Councilwoman Romero: Aye.
Mayor Teso: Ms. Rogers.
Councilwoman Rogers: Aye.
Mayor Teso: Mr. Lopez.
Vice-Mayor Lopez: Yes.
Mayor Teso: Aye. Motion carries.

ITEM #12 – ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Teso: Do we have a motion to adjourn?

Vice-Mayor Lopez: So moved.

Councilman Romero: Second.

Mayor Teso: Okay. Mr. Oyegbola.
Councilman Oyegbola: Aye.
Mayor Teso: Mr. Romero.
Councilman Romero: Aye.
Mayor Teso: Mr. Diaz.
Acting Mayor Diaz: Aye.
Mayor Teso: Ms. Romero.
Mayor Teso: Ms. Romero.
Councilwoman Romero: Aye.
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Mayor Teso: Ms. Rogers.  
Councilwoman Rogers: Aye.  
Mayor Teso: Mr. Lopez.  
Vice-Mayor Lopez: Yeah.  
Mayor Teso: Aye. We are adjourned.  

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

_______________________________________
Mayor

ATTEST:

_______________________________________
Veronica Moreno, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Meeting of the City Council of South Tucson, Arizona, held on the 12th day of November, 2019. I further certify the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this _______ day of _____________________, 2019.

_______________________________________
Veronica Moreno, City Clerk