Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, held Tuesday, January 7, 2020, 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
Manny Amado, Public Safety Director
Marilyn Chico, Housing Director
Capt. Andy Luna, Fire Department

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

Others: Dennis Melin, Public Partnership

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 that would like to speak? Please come up to the podium.

Mr. Melin: Hello, again. I’m Dennis Melin with Public Partnership and I just wanna take a few minutes to update you on what we’re doing here in your city. Last year, I met with Mr. Teso, your Mayor, Mr. Lopez, your Vice-Mayor, and your City Manager. Now purpose being to start our implementation of the Arizona Free
Money Program here in the City. And the Arizona Free Program, very simply, is if you do not file an Arizona Income Tax Return, you can voluntarily file one of two forms and the State of Arizona is obligated by tax law to send you money, anywhere from $25 to $100, $100 to $400, $500, and up to $602. That’s every year. And that’s for people who do not file an Arizona Income Tax Return. And we know that half of the City is in that category. Also, for those who do file an Arizona Income Tax Return, they have the ability to voluntarily make an Arizona Tax Credit Donation to a public partnership, my Public Partnership, non-profit, or another non-profit, and that Arizona Tax Credit is instead of sending money to Phoenix. So, if you have taxes due, or your tax bill says that you owe money, or you get a refund, either way, you can donate up to the amount of your tax to Public Partnership and take it off your Arizona Tax Bill, which means don’t send money to Phoenix. Keep the money local so the local money can help Arizonans in need, specifically those here in the City of South Tucson. I would like to be back on a monthly basis, the first of the month, to update everybody on what we’re doing. And in the meantime, I would like to hand the City Clerk two documents; number one is the communication I’ve had recently with the Vice-Mayor, the Mayor and the City Manager, and also, in regards to business licenses in the City, I’d like to make the public records inspection request form so that I can find out who, what businesses there are in the City of South Tucson that are licensed because I want to talk to them all about how they can participate in helping the City of South Tucson with the Arizona Free Money and the Arizona Tax Credit Donation Program. Thank you very much and I look forward to seeing you again next month.

Mayor and Council: Thank you.

Mayor Teso: Is there anybody else in the audience that would like to speak?

(No response from the audience)

ITEM #06 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING, DECEMBER 17, 2019

Councilwoman Rogers: Mr. Mayor, I have several additions and corrections. Starting with page 3, which is very not so important, but on page 3, down at the bottom, we have Akanni’s name changed to Okanni, so he’s okay. And then I think it’s a minimum, but I think it’s respectful to have his name correct. It’s down at the bottom at the biggest paragraph just before the bottom, the last word of the sentence. That would said to be “A”. Okay. And then page 4, I would like to know, and that’s, what that, Los Artes and about the troubles and stuff and the fence, and maybe in the City Manager’s Report we can get an update if these minutes and the fence and stuff going up has happened because sometimes, we get these minutes and this later and I just want an update if he would have one. Okay. Then page 5, let’s see, I’ll skip page 5 on purpose right now. Page 6, I just want to make a correction down when Councilwoman Rogers is talking towards the end, the middle, towards the end of the middle, because it’s very important that I said about the sixty studio residents that could die there at South Tucson. It sho-, after it says South Tucson, it should say “some are there since Mr. Luttrell owned it in the 1990’s” instead, instead of just “some since”. So, are there needs to be an addition. Some are there since Mr. Luttrell owned it in the ‘90’s. And they don’t (inaudible). Okay. And then page 7, this is a question it might be answered by somebody, or even Ms. Chico, but down at the bottom, Mr. Vidaurri is speaking about our Housing Authority Board. And it’s kind of important to me ‘cause I was Board in Vail and I’m Council here, and I thought I was a Commissioner for the Housing Program. So I wanted to know
if it’s a Board or a Commission that I’m on. That’s something I gotta bring up because I read the minutes. It’s very important to me. I bet Ms. Chico knows.

Mayor Teso: Board, I think.

Mr. Vidaurri: It’s a Commission, not a Board (inaudible).

Ms. Chico: You are a Board of Commissioners. Therefore, you are considered Commissioner.

Councilwoman Rogers: Okay. Thank you. I wanted to know that. Okay. Page 7, I’ll write that later. Okay. And then page 12, we’re going to page 12 if I can find it here. Oh, it’s important to me on page 12, and this happens a lot because I don’t have a microphone. And it will constantly say about Ms. Rogers minutes inaudible. So, down, two-thirds down, it says Councilwoman Rogers inaudible and what I did say there, you see that down there, what I did say is “let’s wait for the other two Council members”, instead of just inaudible. I want myself in the minutes. You were missing, Akanni was missing. So that would be an addition. Or, every time I see inaudible, I’m gonna correct what I said. Okay. And next, page 13, this is kind of just an odd one. At the very, very bottom, though, Mr. Diaz says about Mr. Yu, how about the word not abstaining but reclusing yourself. And I was just telling, we’re not reclusis and we’re not reclusing, and it needs to be changed to recusing. Take the “L” out. And then I will skip a lot of it on the next thing because it’s many, many, many pages about finance. But I might have one on the last page. It’s important. Oh, I guess it will be a question Mr. Yu might be able to answer regarding the minutes, page 28 of 29, the last, the last page, but we were talking about this abstaining and not abstaining, and present or not present, and all that regarding rules and order. And at the very bottom there, Mr. Diaz says, “abstain”, he says “abstain” and, and then he said, “You said it’s the last time I can use it.” It’s down at the bottom of page 29. And I just want to get corrected for the minutes. Is that true? Because I could use it tonight, I think.

Mr. Yu: In terms of discussion, Mayor and Council member Rogers, in relation to this discussion, there hasn’t been (inaudible) passed on this.

Councilwoman Rogers: Right. Then I asked for two to be harder, but the seven.

Mr. Yu: What it was as of December 17th, is still in effect right now.

Councilwoman Rogers: Was in effect, could you state it, please?

Mr. Yu: That abstentions are permitted under the specific section as described last time.

Councilwoman Rogers: Thank you. Okay. That’s the last of my minutes, check additions and corrections.

Mayor Teso: Are there any other corrections?

(No corrections from the Council)
Acting Mayor Diaz: Mr. Mayor, if there are no more corrections or additions to the minutes, I move that we accept the minutes as corrected and amended.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Second.

Mayor Teso: Any discussion?

(No discussion)

Councilwoman Rogers: Second.

Mayor Teso: Mr. Oyegbola.
Councilman Oyegbola: Aye.
Mayor Teso: Mr. Romero.
Councilman Romero: Yes.
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 #07 – MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS: REPORTS OF CURRENT EVENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Teso: Anybody have any current events they’d like to report on?

Councilwoman Rogers: Mr. Mayor, I have several, well, I’ll just tell you quickly, very quickly, the two events that turned out to be successful was the Dan Eckstrom Christmas thing, and the one at the Community by Pancho Green. I went to both of those, represented the Council. Okay. The other important thing, though, I was at twice, at the place probably the Council or the police or everything knows about this, but I go to see different businesses and they’re closing the Goode Thing, G-O-O-D-E, the one that is near Food City. Their last day, due to criminality, is, according to them, is January 15th. So everything in there is a dollar and it’s very sad. They’ve made it about five or six months. They have not come up with a place to go yet, but they’re closing. So I’m reporting that. I’m reporting no sales tax as of January 15th.

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

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. at the House of Neighborly Service, the neighbor, the, there’s gonna be a Neighborhood Watch Association meeting that’s run by my, Arlene Lopez. And hopefully, everybody can attend and it’s potluck, so bring your best meal.
Councilwoman Rogers: Is it still at 6:00?

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Still at 6:00 p.m., yes. Thank you.

Mayor Teso: Okay. Any other current events?

(No current events from Council)

Mayor Teso: Okay. Does anybody 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, we do have a couple of reports for you. One from Fire Department with respect to the fires that have taken place at Spanish Trail. We have Capt. Luna here this evening to address that.

Chief Amado: Mr. Mayor, members of the Council, first, I’d like to start out with answering Councilwoman Rogers’ question about Las Artes. The fence has not gone up yet. I’ve been in regular conversation with Mr. Arnold Palacios and staff. Officers have gone by on occasion, as well as myself to make sure they’re doing okay with their issues. They’re still planning the wrought iron fence that’s gonna go around there, but to answer your question, Councilwoman, it’s not up yet but it’s coming very, very soon. I think they have a contractor coming out to survey and to blue stake it. What I did want to report on tonight is you are all aware we’ve had three fires within the last three weeks at the Spanish Trail. And to be specific, it’s not in the apartment area. It’s in the abandoned area, the fenced in area. There hasn’t been any injuries or loss of life, but there’s been a fairly significant extensive loss of property. Without giving too much information and compromising the investigation, I will say this. We really have no suspects or leads at this time. We did have a person of interest that we detained for two hours and interviewed on Sunday. We did not have enough evidence or probable cause to tie them to the fire. It’s a very specific case. However, that subject was arrested on unrelated charges. Mostly warrants out of the South Tucson and Tucson Police Department. There is another person of interest that has surfaced since that time that was brought to my attention by Capt. Luna, but again, if anybody wants to have an offline conversation with me after the meeting, I can certainly do that with you. I just didn’t want to go public and compromise the investigation because it is still open. And we are still encouraging people to call 88-CRIME if they have any information or to call us directly on that. I’ve been working with Kevin Volt on trying to mitigate the issues. I have suggested, as I’ve told the City Manager, that maybe for the time being he needs to hire private security. Maybe put up cameras, more lighting. The bottom line, and I’ll be blunt on this is we cannot babysit the property. We can’t be sitting there all the time because then it takes us away from other businesses and from residents and from patrolling. And Mr. Volt knows that. He is not insensitive to it. I know he’s a little flustered with it. And, of course, the really big suggestion that I gave to him, from me to him, was just clean it up. But I understand that that’s not as easy of an issue because of asbestos, etcetera. But we are working with him. We’re trying to do our best. We do
go by. We check it. I sat out there today for a little over an hour and just kind of, you know, watched the
desert, see who goes by. If there’s anything that you know about people that like to start fires and
pyromaniacs is they like to see their work, especially when it’s happening. You know, that’s just kind of what
happens. So that’s something we watch for, whenever there is a fire, is who seems to be at this location every
time there’s a fire. But, again, you know, that’s, that’s something that can be pretty dicey. I want to turn it
over to Capt. Luna to answer any questions about fire operations. As time goes on and, you know, I’m going
on my third year now as, not only Police Chief, but Public Safety Director, I’m learning a lot more about fire
operations. I think, you know, Mr. Diaz, being a fire fighter himself, has, can appreciate that there’s a lot
involved with it. So I think a lot of what Capt. Luna talks about tonight you’ll be able to relate to, but for the
rest of us, it’ll be education on just how much goes into fighting a fire and, and having three of them back to
back like this. So, Capt. Luna can come up and kind of talk a little bit about fires at Spanish Trail.

Capt. Luna: Mr. Mayor, members of the Council, my name is Andy Luna. I’m a Captain on “B” shift for the
great City of South Tucson. I want to actually start out with some positive notes and what the Fire
Department has been doing throughout the year 2019, beginning with the Chili Cook-off. As some of you are
aware, the Chili Cook-off is basically the fire department, Tucson Fire sponsors it and invites a lot of fire
departments and we’ve been participating in this for about 20 years now. We’ve got two awards out of it;
first place one year, third place another year. And that just starts off a motion of, of charity. So, if you will, so
what that does is that event raises funds for charities. And two big ones are Adopt a Family for the City of
Tucson and the other big one is the City of South Tucson, specifically. So that’s where we come into play.

So, what we’ve been doing, and what we’ve done annually now for a number of years is we provide
food boxes for Thanksgiving for families in the community. And what I do, or what we do is we go around to
the schools. We go around on calls, at times, and we see, you know, families that, that really need help so a
couple of ways that we do it is the citizens or the schools that we go to, they provide us with families and we
go out and we see families ourselves and distribute boxes. So we, this year we provided about 20 families for
food boxes around Chris-tmas, Thanksgiving. Christmastime comes, we do the same thing. We get another 20
families, different families, and we provide food boxes for them. And on top of that, what we do for Christmas
for the kids is we have Santa. And I think I emailed that out to the Chief and others to where in our
department, every year, we have a Santa there and we display these toys, these unwrapped toys. And so
what we do is the families come in, they meet Santa, they go out to our bay. We have all the toys spread out.

You know, to see those kids looking at what they want to pick out as opposed to getting a wrapped gift and
not knowing what’s in there, it’s, it’s pretty amazing to see that, the kids and their joy. So we get a lot of
volunteers. Our guys help out as well, and so with that, we provide 20, I think it was 25 plus families because
everybody sees what’s going on in the neighborhood and they start coming out and I think there was kids
across the street came over, “You guys giving out toys?” And, again, I mean it’s specifically for South Tucson,
but if it goes beyond South Tucson, well, you know, we’re there to help out. We don’t mind doing that. So
with that, that’s what we’ve been doing as far as like around the community and kind of helping out. We’re
out there in the community all the time, obviously. So that’s that portion of it. Now getting to the fires, as
Chief mentioned, generally in South Tucson Fire Department we generate approximately 2,000 calls a year.
Now that’s including medical stuff, accidents, fires, as a whole. So, and this year, fire-wise, we estimated
about 55 to 60 fires throughout 2019; and 25 of them specifically being building fires, structure fires,
commercial fires. So a lot of what we get is brush fires, mattress fires, dumpster fires. That’s as a whole, but the building fires this year, in 2019, twenty-five. In my career, I’ve never experienced that, ever. So, so with that, now comes, you know, the fourth man. I know we’re all working on that and we appreciate that, and, and it seems to be, you know, rolling along and, and, and moving along to, to benefit and that’s great. A couple of examples of, of that fourth man being a necessity was basically the fires that we’ve been having. Now as we know, Tucson Fire comes in and they assist us when there’s a structure fire. And they only come in for structure fires, building fires, commercial fires. They don’t come in for grass fires, trash fires, dumpster fires, those types of things. We handle that. And we can. So that’s our agreement that we have. So, a lot of the fires that we’ve been having are dumpster fires, are weed fires, that type of thing. So one example of that is about three weeks ago, we had what was a, was a brush fire. So we show up and coming down the alley, we notice that this huge dumpster was on fire right next to a house. So it was going up the side of the wall and then we’re thinking, this is not a mattress fire. Keep it as a mattress fire, actually. So it wasn’t a mattress. It was a dumpster, but then we saw the mattress down the alley, so it was a mattress fire and that was going up that wall. So here we have two small, big enough, they’re not houses yet, but they were right next to the houses. So we end up simultaneously trying to, or put, put out both those fires. And as we continued on down the alley, someone was waving us down. There’s another one around the alley. So we ended up hitting two more fires; a brush fire and then another mattress fire. So right at that moment, we’re fighting these four relatively small fires, but fires nonetheless, going up the side of houses. So we do that and we’re, we spent, however long it was, an hour, two hours. So, with three, with three people. Well, actually two because one is, is actually pumping the truck, so two fire, myself and another fire fighter are doing the work. So we’re dragging this hose around and we’re going from down the alley fighting these fires. And that same day, we had three more fires; one of them was across the street from Baca Upholstery. And there’s like a little band in, just like the walls are up. There’s no roof on it. But the people go in there and they try to squat and do drugs, or whatever they’re doing. But that came out as a house fire because it was walls. So, Tucson Fire started to respond to that. We get there and we were able to cancel them so they don’t send 25 trucks out for a small fire, saves on resources for them. So as we go in there, we’re putting that out, another fire comes in on the radio. So now, this is over at New Way, the junkyard, the, the New Way right here across the street. There was two fires in that alley. They were furniture fires. And so they’re decent size, but they were right up against the, their metal wall where on the other side there’s hundreds and hundreds of cars on the other side. So, Tucson Fire’s truck was still around so they helped us out, got one furniture fire out and we got the other out, so that worked out okay. But the, my concern here is, obviously, now it’s seven fires in one shift. So, I mean it happens. Not often, but that’s kind of a rarity, but it does happen so it takes a toll off of us ‘cause now we’re wearing all our gear, wearing this air pack, and we’re going from fire to fire, taking it off, putting it back on. So, as we’re trying to do that, but after it gets that many fires, it kind of takes a toll on us. So, having said that, the other fires that we had, talking about the Spanish Trail fires. . We’ve had plenty of them there. Late, in fact, Sunday, Sunday was the latest one. Now with that, again, the toll that it takes on our guys being a unit of South Tucson with a large commercial fire like that, we are our own crew on this huge fire. So, TFD has a crew here, TFD has a crew here, South Tucson is here, TFD crew is over here. So, we’re by ourselves, basically, in that division it’s called, or a sector. So, we’re doing what we’re doing on one side, Tucson Fire, so we’re all conjunction and working to get this fire out and we eventually do. Takes about an hour, hour and a half. So this call came in about 2:00 in the morning. So, while we’re there, and typically what happens after the fire is out, Tucson Fire, they’re done. They start putting all their stuff away and they go back in service and they go back to their respective departments, their stations, where South Tucson, we stay on scene. It’s our scene. It’s our city, so we stay on scene and make just, for primarily to make sure this fire doesn’t rekindle and
for hot spots. That’s what you call it. We do that on every fire. But the fact that it was so big and, and we had to stay there to make sure. So, we ended up staying there from 2 o’clock in the morning to 5:30 in the morning. And it did rekindle. So, it’s a good thing we were there. So, we were there watching, looking at smoke, looking at smoke. We were just monitoring the building and we went around and sure enough, it was on fire again. So, we were able to put it out. And then the same thing happened over and over, so about 5:30 in the morning. So now, myself and the other fire fighter, we’re barely walking, you know. We’re falling in holes in there. There’s a bunch of potholes everywhere so we’re exhausted. We come back and then we have to come back and get our truck back into service. So now we gotta pull all this hose off and, but you know, I don’t want to go on and on about it. You get the gist of the work that, that it takes to get everything back in service. So, my concern is the fourth man would help out tremendously, in all aspects, and that one would be a big one because now, we’re there. At least now we can have one person rotate with one, at least get somebody some rest in there because two guys have to go and go back in to hit these, one person can go in. So that would, that would alleviate, that will help out a little bit and that would be a lot, actually, for us. And having said that, the next part, I’m trying not to, the last part I’m gonna talk about is the one, 1742 South 4th Avenue. That one came in. We saw that one. Now, it happened to be New Year’s Eve. And I’ll speak a little bit about holidays and having people working on holidays. It’s difficult. But, so it was myself and one other person. And I wasn’t scheduled to work that day, but I noticed that there was basically nobody there, so I came in as, as the other Captain. Captain Leyvas does as well. He’ll fill in (inaudible) ‘cause that’s what we gotta do. We, we fill in. We have to. So, myself, the other, the other fire fighter, we passed by there. We see the smoke. So, we were the first ones to see the smoke. The call wouldn’t have come out for a few minutes at least, or several minutes. So I, we stop and get out. And it’s, if you’re familiar with 1742, it’s got the gates, but now there’s a hole in there because people are coming in and out of there. So, we stop and we go, and then I look in and I see flames. They’re coming out the second apartment in. So now, it happened to be New Year’s Eve. And I’ll speak a little bit about holidays and having people working on holidays. It’s difficult. But, so it was myself and one other person. And I wasn’t scheduled to work that day, but I noticed that there was basically nobody there, so I came in as, as the other Captain. Captain Leyvas does as well. He’ll fill in (inaudible) ‘cause that’s what we gotta do. We, we fill in. We have to. So, myself, the other, the other fire fighter, we passed by there. We see the smoke. So, we were the first ones to see the smoke. The call wouldn’t have come out for a few minutes at least, or several minutes. So I, we stop and get out. And it’s, if you’re familiar with 1742, it’s got the gates, but now there’s a hole in there because people are coming in and out of there. So, we stop and we go, and then I look in and I see flames. They’re coming out the second apartment in. So now, immediately I call for a full response, for all TFD to come. But now we’re there alone for, for minutes. Okay? So now, am I gonna just sit there ‘cause now I’m just one man. Remember, we have to have two to do anything, to anything. But now, am I gonna sit here and watch this fire spread, as it was, and spread, and spread to the next apartment and the next apartment? And right next door, there’s a shop there with a big fifth wheel, RV, that it would’ve potentially burned if everything caught on fire and went to that lot. So, I chose to go in, not inside the building ‘cause it’s unsafe, but in that yard with a hose, by myself, and fight it from the exterior. So I shot water inside the openings and put the fire out. And Tucson Fire shows up after that and then they start going in, and so we all go in now. We all go in and start looking for more fire and that type of thing. So, the thing that I thought of, and I talked to Chief that evening, is that, to me, was even more of a dangerous situation. Now you have just one person, basically, trying to figure out what’s gonna happen. So, everything was fine. Nobody got hurt. We did things the right way and the fire was out. So, so we survived that in, in many aspects. So, speaking of personnel and having people work just regularly is hard enough. Even though I think right now we have 26, 26 Reserves and two full-timers, myself, Capt. Leyvas, and 26 Reserves. Twenty-four of those Reserves work for full-time departments somewhere else. We have two guys that are on that schedule of, they’re on a crew. So the others, they put in how, how it works is they put in their availability each month. So, they have full-time jobs elsewhere. So they look at the days that are open for them, and they put ‘em in. So it could be anywhere from one day, to three days, to five days, throughout the month. So because we have that Reserve personnel, it doesn’t mean they’re there all the time. It means they’ll put in one day a month because that’s all they’re afforded because they have a full-time job already and a family. So the days that we’re short by two happened to be New Year’s Eve because if you think about it, when you’re putting your availability in, and it’s a holiday, that day, or Thanksgiving, Christmas, and you’re either working at your full-
time job, or you’re gonna spend time with your family. Sad to say, South Tucson’s gonna come third because their priority is somewhere else, where Capt. Leyvas, myself, and the two others that are on crew, this is their priority. So, we have issues with that. So on holidays, it’s difficult to get people to work. We have to call and call and beg and plead, and hope that they, you know, work. So sometimes it works, and sometimes it doesn’t. So, that, that day, New Year’s Eve, that’s what occurred there is that nobody could work, or was able to work because their full-time jobs, their commitments to their family. So, that’s why we had two. So it makes it difficult to do that. What else did I have? I think that was pretty much it. Oh, what I will say, back to the fact that we spend a lot of time and we wear that gear, as Acting Mayor Diaz knows, that gear is heavy. Right? Put on those air packs, that’s heavy. So, what I’m extending is an invitation to any Council members or anybody else that would like to come back there when you’re not busy, and let’s put you, let’s outfit you with some, some gear. Let’s put a coat, the pants, let’s put the tank, the helmet, the face mask, and let’s have you walk around a little bit and, you know, maybe pull the hose and, and pull it just to get a feel for how it feels, you know, to walk around a little bit with all that gear on and how confining it can be with everything on you, and just to get a feel for what we go through on, on, not an everyday basis, but how to, how we function with that gear on. And then we do that as training. So, sometimes, we’ll be out in the bay and we’ll gear up just to test ourselves, just to get ourselves some training. And we do little obstacles back there. You guys, maybe you folks might have seen us out there sometimes. We have all the gear on. And so, we’re out there for seven, to ten, to twenty minutes, something like that, exhausted. And we’re just doing stuff around the station. We take off that stuff and we’re just exhausted. So, you can imagine a fire that lasts an hour, two hours, and then we have to stay there and we’re in that gear all over, walking around, how, how the toll takes. So, again, I invite anyone to just go try that stuff on to see what it’s like to, just to wear that stuff. And then lastly, I want to thank the Chief, Chief Amado for all his support throughout this whole time he’s been here. He came in with open arms and, and back there he’s supporting us a lot with what we do, and, and we, I always talk with him. I’m sure he’s tired of seeing me all the time. But I just want to thank him for, for all his support that, that he’s, that he’s given us. He’s a big, a big, huge help. I hope I didn’t miss anybody or anything.

Chief Amado: Anybody have any questions?

Capt. Luna: Any questions?

Mayor Teso: You mentioned, you mentioned something ...

Councilwoman Rogers: Yes, I do.

Mayor Teso: ... about you had 25 fires.

Capt. Luna: Twenty-five confirmed building fires.

Mayor Teso: Right. Out of, out of how many?

Capt. Luna: Out of, out ...

Mayor Teso: Seventy-five?
Capt. Luna: ... of the to-, we had exactly 1,500 calls, or I’m sorry, 1,950 calls, just under 2,000 calls. And 25 were confirmed structure buildings where there’s houses or commercial buildings.

Mayor Teso: Right.

Capt. Luna: And everything else, like 50 to 60 more fires, of those little fires that we go out and chase around.

Mayor Teso: What’s like the average of building fires or structural fires?

Capt. Luna: Well, I think somebody, somebody did an average on that. It, it equated to maybe one, one a week or something like that. Or one every couple of weeks, so it averaged out to, to that many, so, but again, those little fires that I talked about, we had seven. In one day, we had seven, back to back.

Chief Amado: ‘Cause you had two confirmed structure fires in one day.

Unknown: The building, the residence, and then we had Old Spanish Trail later on in the day.

Councilwoman Rogers: Yeah, Sunday. He didn’t talk about ...

Unknown: (Inaudible).

Capt. Luna: Which one was it? What’s the address?

Unknown: Thirty-sixth, 36th across Greyhound Park at 10:00 a.m. and then later on, ...

Capt. Luna: Oh, okay. That’s true.

Councilwoman Rogers: Sunday, this Sunday.

Capt. Luna: That’s true. No, this one happened a couple of weeks ago ...

Councilwoman Rogers: Yeah.

Capt. Luna: ... where it started out, because, it’s funny you should mention that, also is because when we get one structure fire, I mean we’re, we’re, spent, we’re burned, we’re, we’re done, and we’re thinking, okay, oh, there won’t be another one today. Well, we’ll rest. We’ll get some rest. But, but I forgot about that. So, we had, at 36th and 4th Avenue, I forget the, an abandoned structure, but that was, that was our structure fire. That was a, our house fire for the day, or for the week, hopefully. And so we went in there and fought that fire, and we were done. And then later, that’s when the Spanish Trail went up. So, we had already fought our so-called fire for that day, or that week, if you will, and then we went out to Spanish Trail that night and then stayed up the whole entire night, fighting or taking care of that, that area.
Councilwoman Rogers: Okay. Mr. Mayor, I have a question. Just to, I’m getting mixed up, but I know the one that he talked about. I’m usually over there all the time. The two, 2:00 a.m. and you got out and it re-, re-ignited ...

Capt. Luna: It rekindled, ...

Councilwoman Rogers: ... at 5:30.

Capt. Luna: ... re-ignited.

Councilwoman Rogers: That was the second fire, but this Sunday’s fire was, seemed an awful long time. It was in the afternoon.

Capt. Luna: Yes.

Councilwoman Rogers: Lots of fire trucks.

Capt. Luna: Yes.

Councilwoman Rogers: TEP. And cornered off all of Silver Saddle road so no one could get in.

Capt. Luna: Yes.

Councilwoman Rogers: The market place ...

Capt. Luna: Yeah, that was, that was ...

Councilwoman Rogers: ... (inaudible) ...

Capt. Luna: ... the Sunday fire.

Councilwoman Rogers: ... just a few days ago.

Capt. Luna: Yeah, and that was in the day time. That one came out ...

Councilwoman Rogers: Well, that was the ...

Capt. Luna: ... I think ...

Councilwoman Rogers: ... one I was concerned about. That one ‘cause somebody I know owns property that, ...

Capt. Luna: Right. Yeah.
Councilwoman Rogers: ... that the current owners are ...

Capt. Luna: So ...

Councilwoman Rogers: ... (inaudible).

Capt. Luna: ... with that one as well, we stayed for, I think, that time maybe two more hours after everybody was gone. And that one had a little bit of rekindle, like they normally do. That’s why we stay. But ironically enough, the next, the very next day, the next crew went out there just to take a look. ‘Cause we like to go out there and kind of look at it and see, assess it to see what we see. He found a little spot that was still smoldering a day later. A day later. So this whole thing that we have to stay on scene is because we want to or we have to so it doesn’t ignite again, all over. So, so yeah, that’s, that’s, so we do. So, any other questions?

Councilman Romero: This is gonna be (inaudible) other people.

Chief Amado: Okay.

Councilman Romero: Thank you, sir.

Councilwoman Rogers: Thank you.

Acting Mayor Diaz: The years in, that you were talking about, ‘17 and ‘18, you mean ’18 and ’19?

Capt. Luna: The years of what?


Capt. Luna: Yeah, it was actually 20, 20, what did I say, 1900 or something?

Acting Mayor Diaz: Eighteen.

Capt. Luna: Eighteen hundreds? It was 2019. All last year and then, and ...

Councilwoman Rogers: Are you ...

Capt. Luna: ... then (inaudible) ...

Councilwoman Rogers: ... counting this year?

Capt. Luna: ... this year. So, all of ...

Councilwoman Rogers: It’ll be right ...

Capt. Luna: ... 2019, ...
Councilwoman Rogers: ... in the minutes.

Capt. Luna: ... I thought I said 2019. I might have said that, but it was 2019, just last year that, what we did. So, and the last thing, I left, I want to thank all the Council members, Councilwomen, women, that are helping with the whole process of getting us whole again. Oh, and one last thing, like you said, I don’t stop. The Reserves as, as compared to the full-time, I think I touched a little bit on that. So, there was year, the, the last comment that I’ll make is years past when we had full-time personnel, this never happened where, if it was a holiday. So, once your schedule is set, and you’re a full-time employee, you work. You take (inaudible). It was always a constant thing. It’s just the fact that with the Reserves that they have that option. They’re gonna work at their full-time job before you. So, anyway, that’s it.

Councilwoman Rogers: Thank you.

Capt. Luna: Oh, one last thing.

(Laughter - simultaneous conversation)

Mayor Teso: When is the Chili Cook-off?

Capt. Luna: When is the Chili Cook-off? It’s usually, it’s usually the, the last Saturday in October.

Mayor Teso: Oh, okay.

(Simultaneous conversation)

Chief Amado: I did want to touch a little bit on how the Police Department is impacted by the fires. Now, obviously, whenever there is a fire, especially a structure fire, a big one, law enforcement is there to conduct point control, to block off streets, to make sure nobody walks through, drives through the fire, that nobody drives over the water hoses. That’s a big one. And as you saw with the Spanish Trail fire, it really does impact traffic. And, and, of course, it’s gonna garner the attention of the media. The ramp was closed. TEP, of course, goes out to make sure that all electrical systems are safe. Gas goes out, exactly, Southwest Gas. So, even if it’s just a small, confined, say corner area, as the Captain explained, that could very easily ignite into something bigger. So we have to be there to prepare for that to happen. Sunday was a challenge for the Police Department because, obviously, we had a couple of officers on and we had a person of interest that was there that I was on the phone with Kevin Volt and he was telling me he’s walking that way. Well, my two officers were helping fire contain the scene. So, if they left their area to go address this issue, now they’re leaving the area vulnerable. And TPD will not come out for that. That’s not part of their MOU. However, with that being said, on, not this last fire but the fire before that, by chance, they happened to be in the City helping out one of our officers that had been plugged in the face over at, by Del Sur. He ended up going to the hospital. He’s fine. But we had a big melee there. TPD responded to assist. At that same time, a fire broke out at the Spanish Trail. So, through their generosity, I guess, the Sergeant, the TPD Sergeant said, “Hey, I’ll send a couple of officers over there to help out.” And they did. And that’s an anomaly. That’s a rarity that doesn’t happen a lot. Usually, it’s just us following the Fire Department from fire to fire, which, of course,
when you have at least two people there, we try to, try to utilize our resources as best we can. Usually, when TFD goes out, they'll set up somebody to block a street, or, or whatever. And then once they leave, then, you know, it’s up to us on that. So, you know, fires are, are pretty exhausting. There’s no doubt about that. Okay. And the last thing that I have, last report I have is some of you may be aware, or maybe all of you are aware that the 2019 Crime Stats came out for the cities. Those are garnered from the Uniformed Crime Reporting from the FBI agencies. Just quick recap. Agencies report that to the Arizona Department of Public Safety. And then they, in turn, give it to the FBI. And then from there, news agencies, media outlets, YouTube bloggers poll all of that and then make it known. All right? So what happened is in 2019, the most dangerous cities in Arizona for 2019 were number one and number ten, Globe, Tolleson, Page, Winslow, Tucson, Tucson, not South Tucson, Tucson, Tempe, Showlow, Phoenix, Glendale and Kingman. The way they look at is crimes per capita, how many people you have and how many crimes are committed. And they, they work out an average. So that’s why you see somebody like, you see Phoenix along with Showlow. We know that back in the day, I’m gonna hand these out just as a little cruise back in time, in 2016, we were number one in the nation as the most dangerous small town in America. We beat out every small town in Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama. I mean we, it was terrible. It was absolutely terrible. And I’ll, I’ll explain that a little bit further. Now, of course, when something like that, and that, what I showed you is actually from a blog, an Internet blog. But, you know, these things go viral. They absolutely go viral. And once they go out, the damage is done. And I think it would be safe to say that even today in, in 2020, we’re still trying to battle that perception.

Mayor Teso: Right.

Chief Amado: Now, how did that happen? I can tell you, in general terms, how that happened. The same, the devil is in the details holds very true when it comes to administrative functions in a police department. So the Records Unit is responsible for providing the Uniformed Crime Reporting Stats, or crimes that occur in our city, to the State. The State audits Records Units every three years. The State, in turn, provides that to the FBI. And Mayor, as a statistician yourself, you know that stats are only as accurate as the numbers that are provided. You provide bad numbers, you’re gonna have bad stats. When I arrived here in November of 2017, part of my job as a Chief is, of course, to just kind of look at the overall health of the department, what is working, not just patrol, but is the administrative side also in tune. Property and Evidence, Records, to put it politely, was in disarray. And it’s something that had been going on for some time. They had not provided, according to the previous Records Clerk, stats to the State in, since 2014. Now I arrived in 2017. And she was right because I confirmed that with the State. So what happened in 2016? Well, they did get the stats from South Tucson, geographical area, south Tucson. So, you know, 6th and Valencia, Campbell and Irvington. I’m naming off some of the hotspots. They included that somehow with City of South Tucson. So, somewhere along the line, we didn’t give them the correct stats, but they went, oh, South Tucson, these are the stats, because something had to be provided to the FBI. And I am in the process of correcting that, by the way. It’s a, it’s a long process. Any Chief, any administrator who has been working at this for some time will tell you that the top three areas, and actually, Mr. Yu can confirm this as well. We’ve had a lot of conversations about this. The top three areas that will get a police department in trouble, and the City, and a municipality, and you’re gonna be surprised at this, the top is Property and Evidence. The second is the Records Unit. And the third is employees. That would be the cops. So, you know, the cops violated somebody’s civil rights or shooting somebody when they shouldn’t be, or whatever. Here’s why that’s in the order that it is. We, like Finance, like any other division, we have to provide compliance to the Feds and to the State. We get audited
just like, right now Finance is going through an audit. As a matter of fact, we have the FBI coming to audit our Records Unit tomorrow. The State audited our Records Unit last year. We passed through a lot of hard work through the Records Specialist. And, quite frankly, a lot of support from Ms. Moreno as the Interim City Manager, from Finance, ‘cause it takes a group effort. Compliance takes money. It, it really does, but it’s important. The FBI and the State, when they come in, and, and again, I’m gonna be blunt here, if I sit down with ‘em and tell ‘em I got two officers on duty and I got drug houses and all, they go, well, yeah, welcome to everybody else’s problems. What’s going on in Records? Are you in compliance? Are you following State law? Are you following Federal law? How are your processes? Are your people trained? I mean there’s a list, a list of things that they look at. I’ve expressed to the City Manager and to Mr. Yu that my priority this year is Property and Evidence. Not to say that Field Operations is not gonna be addressed. That’s a given. With any police Chief that gets hired, crime is what they’re expected to address. But there’s also the administrative side of the house that cannot be ignored. Property and Evidence is still in disarray. We’re getting there. We have a consultant coming in to do an audit, an external audit of that. Richard Munoz has been working very diligently with that. Our Records Unit is in better shape than it was, but it’s still a work in progress. When I found out what we had going on in Records, and not because I had a crystal ball, only because I bring with me experience from Pima that was audited when we were on accreditation probation. You all remember that when everybody thought Pima College was gonna go away. They were literally circling the drain. When that happens, every government agency in the country comes in and starts auditing. So we had the Attorney General’s Office. We had the Feds. We had the State coming to audit the Police Department. That was what I inherited as Chief at Pima. And, and you, having worked at District Office, you’re well aware of all the issues there. So, I knew what to look for when I got here. And that was one of the first questions I asked was in Records, what was going on there. As soon as I found out, as I learned from Pima, I contacted the State. They put the pause button on our stats and said, “Okay. You’ve got “X” amount of time to fix it.” And they’re not gonna accept, well, it was like that when I got here. It’s, you’re there. You touched it. You own it. That’s just the way it works. And I get that. I do. And they’re very, very particular because of the importance of Records and Property and Evidence. Especially Records. There’s a lot of confidential records there. You know, and, and it’s linked into the FBI, and it’s linked into databases, it’s linked into the State. So, they’re very, very particular about that. And there are State laws that have to be in adherence. The State and the Feds, the Department of Justice will shut down a police department, literally shut them down if they’re not in compliance. We were threatened with that at Pima. They were gonna pull, pull the plug as they called it, on dispatch. And that means that we wouldn’t have a dispatch there. So, here, if you’re not in compliance, they basically tell you to just kind of stop. A lot of agencies, you can look this up, they’re a consent decree like the Los Angeles Police Department, where the Feds are actually running the police department and the Chief is a figurehead. If you look at their top reasons, and I know this because I was also, I still am in the National Internal Affairs Investigators Association. It’s Property and Evidence, it’s process and procedures, training, all of those things. We weren’t there. We were not there, okay? But we were pretty darn close. And as you recall, Mayor, Vice-Mayor, when you were first elected to Council, with Interim City Manager Moreno, we sat down and I told you. I laid it out, with transparency, this is what’s going on. So here is what we’re doing moving forward. And I think the bottom line with this is we are, we are in better shape now than we were a couple of years ago. I am looking, I have worked with the State and with the FBI to get our accurate stats and it’s gonna be a little bit cumbersome between 2010 and 2019. Okay? So that we can post that online. We really should be about transparency. If I’m a business, and I want to know what the crime is like, what am I gonna do? I’m gonna go to a city website and I’m gonna go, well, where are the crime stats? And we already have this perception that, you know, you don’t need to drive through 6th Avenue. I want to put the truth out
there. And I think the truth will show that 2016 was not that bad. And actually, 2016 stats are for 2015. They report ‘em in 2016, but it’s actually 2015 on that. So, that’s gonna be coming up. I’m working, like I said, with the State and with the Feds on getting the accurate stats. They’re gonna have to pull it from dispatch, from the Tucson Police Department and basically kind of, I’m gonna have to put it together manually. But I’m willing to do that because I think it’s important. I think that is about it. I think the good news in that is we’re not on the list. We shouldn’t be on the list. We have issues. We have problems that is apparent, but we’re not the worst in the country. We’re, we’re just simply not. And I think it hurts us, as far as economic development, when news goes out that we are and we battle to, you know, as it is right now we’re trying to get resources back up. We’re, we’re trying to get back on our feet. I know that is a cumulative effort with Council and it is with staff as well. And I think the truth needs to be put out there more.

Councilman Oyegbola: Mr. Mayor.

Councilwoman Rogers: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Teso: Mr. Oyegbola.

Councilman Oyegbola: I would like to touch on that briefly. As somebody who comes from the area I come from, okay, so you got Baltimore with 348 murders this year.

Acting Mayor Diaz: (Inaudible) politicians though.

Councilman Oyegbola: Huh?

Acting Mayor Diaz: And the politicians ...

Councilman Oyegbola: No, not just politicians. So, when I was growing up, we were close to 500 hundred murders a year, and that was D.C. And you can imagine D.C. that has all kinds of law enforcement from Homeland Security to Secret Service, everything, all kinds of agencies run through our neighborhood. And I’m saying that because when I go around South Tucson and I hear a lot of the residents and the businesses saying that people give us a bad rep and it’s not really that bad here. And it isn’t. It is, it’s amazing here, coming from what I’m used to. So, I definitely understand what the Chief is saying. We definitely are sympathetic and we’d definitely like to get you more resources at attacking the image problem in South Tucson, but I just wanted to say that because I think a lot of people who don’t understand that a lot of residents understand, too. They understand that South Tucson is lumped in with what goes on on the southern border of Tucson. And it’s not as bad as what it is, but we do need resources.

Councilwoman Rogers: Mr. Mayor, just, I don’t understand. I gotta talk to, I, I don’t understand the meaning of Property and Evidence.

Chief Amado: Oh, I’m sorry. So, the Property and Evidence Unit in each police department is where evidence is placed, it’s categorized, it’s entered, say from a crime scene. So if we have a homicide, anything like shell casings, bloody clothes, a knife, a gun, gets entered into Property and Evidence. And there is actually a process for that and it has to adhere to certain laws.
Councilwoman Rogers: Would it be like when my purse was stolen?

Chief Amado: Your ...

Councilwoman Rogers: A guy you brought here and searched his backpack and all that.

Chief Amado: Well, not really because we found your purse and brought it to you.

Councilwoman Rogers: No, you never found it.

Chief Amado: No, no, we did. Did we not? Oh, no, I’m sorry. We didn’t. We were digging around ...

(Simultaneous conversation)

Chief Amado: ... (inaudible). Sorry. I wanna go back. We were walking up and down and we didn’t find it, yeah. But if we would’ve found your purse, yes, if we would’ve found your purse, we would’ve entered it in Property and Evidence.

Councilwoman Rogers: Okay.

Chief Amado: And so what happens is the, the State will come and say, “Okay, how did you process this? What kind of system do you have? What officer put it in? What, who touched it? What document do you have?” I think I told this Council the story, and I’ll tell it real quickly that my first day here, I opened up the bottom drawer in the Chief’s office. And in the back, were two big bags of jewelry and they had Property and Evidence markers on ‘em. And when I had Richard Munoz, of course Richard and, and Commander Shonk’s face both went pale, but when he looked at it in our system, it showed that a previous employee, who was no longer with us, who had been fired, had actually said that he entered that in Property and Evidence when he really didn’t. It was in the drawer. So, what the State looks at is well, what do you have to help balance or counter that? What system do you have in place, what software do you have for that? We know of an employee, a former employee that was arrested because he embezzled money because he had a gambling problem. That really sparked the interest of the State and the Feds. Now, unfortunately, of course, like anything else in the City, resources is a big thing. It takes at least a 20 to 30 hour week employee to oversee the Property and Evidence Unit. Ideally, it would be two full-time employees. Right now, I have a contract employee who works three days a week. And he puts a lot of his priority in Property and Evidence, purging. Just like in Records, it’s like okay, you’ve had this for ten years. Why is it still here? It needs to be purged. I mean I could go on and on. I could spend two hours talking about it. I don’t want to do that. But to answer your question, that’s what the Property and ...

Councilwoman Rogers: Okay, ...

Chief Amado: ... Evidence ...

Councilwoman Rogers: ... thank you.
Chief Amado: ... is.

Mayor Teso: Are there any other questions?

(No questions from the Council)

Councilman Romero: Thank you, Chief.

Chief Amado: No, thank you.

Acting Mayor Diaz: I would like to make, thank you, Chief, and thank you, Captain. You know, ...

Councilwoman Rogers: And the fire ...

Acting Mayor Diaz: ... you guys ...

Councilwoman Rogers: ... fighters.

Acting Mayor Diaz: ... are doing a marvelous job with what little you have. And, you know, it might be a bad omen to use, saying that you’re doing a good job with such little people.

Chief Amado: I know. It’s a double-edge sword, isn’t it?

Mayor Teso: And Chief, who are the other two people that are working with you in Property and Evidence?

Chief Amado: Pardon me?

Mayor Teso: Who are the people that are working for you in Property and Evidence?

Chief Amado: In Property and Evidence, I only have one person. However, in Records, I have John Martinez and Margo (inaudible).

Mayor Teso: Right, right.

Chief Amado: And, and I’ve got a, I’ve gotta really take my hat off to Veronica Moreno who was the Interim City Manager at the time, and Finance for help, for supporting me in trying to bring that back into compliance. But last and not least, I gotta thank Council because if Council was fighting me on this, it would probably not get done. And I know I report it to Council, some of the issues we’ve had, we’ve shared emails. I’m gonna be transparent with you, good and bad, on what’s going on in the police department. And some things may not be very pleasant, but I think my job is to tell you what you need to know, not what you want to know. That way, you have the information and your constituents have the information.
Councilman Oyegbola: Mr. Mayor, also, if we can discuss, maybe we can meet with the Chief regarding maybe that regional security plan and see which strategies that we can come up, maybe that can assist you with some time to strategize what you need to do so you can work with administration and then the other part of the house. So, whatever help I think.

Chief Amado: We’ll, we’ll look at any ideas, Councilman.

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

Mr. Vidaurri: Just a couple of quick comments, Mr. Mayor and members of the Council. We’re into the Census 2020 count. And so, it’s about time that the City consider appointing a Complete Count Committee. And so if you have any thoughts with respect to who you would like to see on the committee, maybe a particular organizations, or neighborhood groups, we can go ahead and approach them and ask them whether or not they’d like to serve on the committee. Or Mayor, I know you’ve done a lot of work in that area yourself, so if you’d like to continue to do that (inaudible). There’s a group called “The Center for Economic Integrity” that’s looking to expand access to affordable high quality pre-school for low income families in Pima County. And I’ve asked them to, if they’re available on January the 21st, to make a presentation to the City Council so you all know what the program is about. The kickoff project meeting for Comprehensive Flood Plain Mapping Plan is next week. And what they’re gonna be doing as part of developing a flood plan for the City of South Tucson is to identify, measure, and map all of our existing drainage infrastructure within the City. And then to provide some technical data that they’re gonna use to provide, not provide but to support that comprehensive planning effort. We’ve had some issues here and there in town with respect to ponding water. Nothing major at this point, but the master plan is going to allow us to look at where the real issues are and the real problems are, and allow the City Council to consider capital improvement programs to improve our drainage system to make it better than it is today.

Acting Mayor Diaz: When is this gonna occur?

Mr. Vidaurri: It’s going to be on the 14th of January, this coming Tuesday.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Okay.

Mr. Vidaurri: And the last thing is, you know, the League of Arizona Cities and Towns is proposing some legislation. And I’ve talked about it at some previous meetings, regarding abandoned and vacant buildings, absentee landowners. And so, the League has suggested that the City consider renewing its license to lobby and appointing a lobbyist for the City to assist the League in letting other municipalities and representatives know that this is legislation that the City of South Tucson supports. And that we do have some issues in the community and a lot of these issues have resulted in some of the fires that were discussed earlier; vacant buildings that have caught fire, homeless folks residing in those buildings, particularly in the colder weather where they tend to congregate and start fires within some of these abandoned buildings. The building, or the fires that they eventually start in, in the buildings themselves, spread to the building. And that might be one of the reasons we’ve experienced as many fires as we have recently, because of the colder weather. But, so if you have any thoughts regarding who you would like to see as a lobbyist for the City. In the past, there was a gentleman by the name of Fernando Castro, who was the lobbyist for, for the City. This was back in 2006.
Prior to that, Rene Gastelum was the City’s lobbyist as City Manager, in the year 2000. And so please give that some thought and City Attorney and I will follow up with the Secretary of State and produce the paperwork that needs to be done to renew our, our lobby potential as a municipality and actually appoint someone to that position. There was some discussion about Las Artes a little earlier. The Chief brought it up. Councilwoman Rogers brought it up. We also met recently with a focus group, not only to discuss Las Artes, and the Mayor was part of those meetings, not only to discuss the, the issues of Las Artes with homeless population but also to talk about some of the issues that we’re experiencing at the Sam Lena Public Library. And so, we met with staff, with representatives of the County since it’s their facility now, and we discussed the possibility of doing additional nightly mobile patrols. We talked about additional lighting for the area. We talked about landscaping in areas that are deemed health issues and we’ve had some issues there with, I won’t go into the particulars, but we think if the County can help with providing some landscaping it will help to, to alleviate some of, some of that issue. We talked about tree pruning to allow better camera visibility. We do have cameras out there, but because of the tree growth, we recommended doing some pruning to allow us to see who’s actually out there and to better control ingress and egress. We also talked about fencing around the library area to eliminate ingress after posted library operating hours. Right now, there’s a lot of congregating going on in the back of the library off of 26th Street. And it’s, it’s pretty serious and so we’ve gone out there, PD, and attempted to control that. And I think we’re doing a good job right now of, of controlling the level of folks that are congregating in the back there and causing some of the problems that the County was concerned about. And so, that’s basically it for my report, Mr. Mayor.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Mr. Mayor, are they the, the group that’s stealing my, or the barrel cactus out there?

(Laughter)

Mr. Vidaurri: Stealing barrel cactus?

Acting Mayor Diaz: Yeah, there’s six missing, I think.

Mr. Vidaurri: Oh, I haven’t noticed that.

Councilman Romero: (Inaudible) worth a lot of money.

Mr. Vidaurri: Well, we had talked about planting some cholla cactus to keep folks off of the library premises. I’ve heard of some people actually planting that sort of cactus underneath their, outside their windowsills to prevent theft. And it seems to have worked in some places. Landscaping is always a good alternative.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Just as long as they don’t take ‘em.

Councilman Romero: Mr. Mayor, I have a question for Mr. Yu. It was brought to my attention here a while back ago that our new Code Enforcement, the guy that works on weekends, had 95 NOV’s, 5 responded. Those are just on what he did. My question is, Mr. Durazo also has some. How many of those have they brought to your attention for you to act on?
Mr. Yu: I don’t believe they have informed me about any of these, but the next step would be to, to cite them into court.

Councilman Romero: Okay. Is that something that you can, you and the City Manager can address?

Mr. Vidaurri: Well, I’ll interject right now, Mr. Mayor and Councilman Romero, the problem that we’re having right now is actually serving. We can’t seem to serve the people once we decide to go to court, to serve the people to actually appear in court. And that’s been the problem since I’ve been here. Now that’s an issue that we need to get around so I’ll work with the City Attorney and we’ll see what we can do to improve that process, but you know, we’ve done mail outs to citizens and some of the mail outs that we’ve recently done, three-quarters of the mail was returned. And so, we need to get with the postmaster and find out what’s going on because a lot of the stuff that we’re sending out is coming back as undeliverable.

Councilman Romero: Okay. That, …

Councilwoman Rogers: Mr. Mayor, …

Councilman Romero: … that, that answers a lot of my questions. Thank you.

Mr. Yu: And in terms of service or process, if the League is able to get past the State Legislature, the legislation on abandoned property, that will make it much easier for us.

Councilman Romero: Thank you.

Councilwoman Rogers: Mr. Mayor, what does NOV mean? November?

Councilman Romero: Notice of Violation.

Mr. Vidaurri: Notice of Violation.

Councilwoman Rogers: Thank you. See, I’m learning. I always learn every meeting.

Mr. Vidaurri: Right. Once a Notice of Violation …

Councilman Romero: Sorry, Rita.

Councilwoman Rogers: Okay.

Mr. Vidaurri: Councilman Romero, Councilwoman Rogers, once a Notice of Violation is issued, the, whoever it is issued to is, is given 30 days to correct the problem. If the problem isn’t corrected, then there’s a service process involved where we would actually end up in Municipal Court and as Mr. Yu indicated, our, our problem has been actually serving people and that’s why it’s so important to consider supporting the legislation that the League is proposing to the State Legislature this session.
Councilman Romero: Okay. Yeah, ‘cause Mr. Lopez had told me about that, that he had 95 NOV’s and 5 responded, nobody else did. So I was just curious to see what had happened with those, you know. We serve them or what.

Mayor Teso: Right.

Councilman Romero: But, you clarified that for me. Thank you.

Mayor Teso: Chief, you had a question?

Chief Amado: Yeah, I just want to interject, if I may, very quickly on this. Obviously, the abandoned properties affect all of us. It affects the fire department, it affects me, as well as the City. So we really have attacked this, for lack of a better term, as a group effort. Example of that, when Capt. Luna on-sighted the fire at 1742 South 4th Avenue, unbeknownst to us, it had recently been sold. So, prior to that, it was, it was owned by somebody in Mexico and then was sold to, I believe it was Equilibrium, LLC. We’ve even gone, and I say we’ve even gone to the Internet and looked at the Property Assessor’s Office to see who the current owner is. And usually, there’s a contact there. Not always. That’s the issue. There’s not always a contact there. If it’s a realty company, if it’s a land management company, that’s usually pretty liable. It’s when we run into the private owners. And they haven’t updated, they haven’t changed. The number we call, nobody answers or it’s disconnected. Or like the City Manager says, we send it to that address and it doesn’t, it gets returned. But like as the City Manager knows, and as Bobby Yu knows, in order not to take an officer away from the street to, and to help alleviate Mr. Durazo, and our Code Enforcement Officer’s duties, I’ll serve a notice. I served one at a senior living home. It wasn’t a very popular thing to do, but it had to be done. And when I showed up with this Notice of Violation, it was delivered directly to the property owner. She owned a property on East 36th Street. And we, it took some time and resources to track that down. And then she was responsible on that. So to reiterate what the City Manager was saying, it’s a challenge because we’ve got some abandoned properties, some absentee landowners that have been absent for some time. And there hasn’t been any, maybe the follow-up that there could’ve been, or there wasn’t just enough to be brought in, again, because of lack of resources. So, I just wanted to assure Council that it’s not just Mr. Durazo, it’s not just, Durazo and I do talk. And we do show up at places when he says, “Hey,” you know, “something going on here.” I’ll pull an officer away because it’s important we address those abandoned properties. It is, it’s being demanded by our residents, of you, of me, of the City Manager, of everybody. So we do address it, you know, as best as we can.

Mayor Teso: Right.

Chief Amado: That’s all.

Mayor Teso: Thank you.

Councilman Romero: Thank you.

Mayor Teso: Okay. So no more reports?

Mr. Vidaurri: No, sir. That’s it.
Mayor Teso: Okay.

Ms. Chico: (Inaudible) ...

Councilwoman Rogers: Ms. Chico.

Mr. Vidaurri: Well, there’s another item ...

(Simultaneous conversation)

Mr. Vidaurri: … on the agenda.

Ms. Chico: Oh, I’m sorry.

Mr. Vidaurri: They have to convene as the Board.

Mayor Teso: Do we have a motion to adjourn from Regular Session and convene into Housing Governing Board?

Councilwoman Rogers: Oh, yes, we do.

Acting Mayor Diaz: So moved.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Second.

Councilwoman Rogers: We have to ...

Councilman Romero: Second.

Councilwoman Rogers: We have to leave. So moved. Now second, somebody second.

Mayor Teso: 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. And Mr. Benz is not with us tonight.

Councilwoman Rogers: Alan is missing.

Mayor Teso: Okay. Moving onto Item #09.

**ITEM #09 – RESOLUTION NO. 20-01 OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA, APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THIS RESOLUTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON HOUSING DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT THE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN TO HUD BY THE JANUARY DEADLINE**

Ms. Chico: Chairman Teso, Board of Directors, hello.

Commissioner Rogers: Hello.

Ms. Chico: Unfortunately, because of our low occupancy percentage, HUD has made us go into a Corrective Action Plan. There were some other items in there also. On December 30th, I believe, I sent to each one of you a little packet. It was about the, about the Corrective Action Plan and some other information, but I also had put in each item that they have listed on the actual Corrective Action Plan. We’ve been working on this. Lourdes, Sandra Shelton, my Section 8 person, and myself were in a training session with Pete Cocio, from HUD Phoenix. We’ve had another session of training with him. We are going to have future ones with him. He, it seems there is a problem somewhere in 2017 that needs to be corrected. Well, it’s now 2020 and, quite frankly, that upsets me. If you saw a problem, then why was it not brought to my attention? But we’ll take care of it as we do. Anyway, that problem may have snowballed into the problem that they’re saying we had in 2018. But again, Mr. Cocio is gonna look into it. He thinks there may have been an error somewhere. We’re going to sit down and come up with a total amount that HUD and Housing will agree upon. My thing is in Housing, we account for every single penny. We have a difference in accounting from my office, actually from City Finance and with Lindsay and Company, who is our accountants because they’re on an accrual basis, and I don’t know what you call it. I call it hard cash. If I can prove what’s going in and out, that seems to me to be a strong point. The accrual part just confuses the heck out of me, in all honesty. So we think there may be a problem there. But we’re taking care of the Section 8 part as soon as we get that number from Pete Cocio. The main issue on this whole thing was because of our poor occupancy. I believe every single Board report I have sent to you starts with how horrible we’re doing in our occupancy. I have never once not told you that. It turns out that our biggest problem was the turnaround time. So, yes, we’re going to get a couple more laborers. I’m having our Maintenance Supervisor do a lot more supervision over the laborers because I am over him and he doesn’t like that because I can get pretty firm. And that’s what’s needed. So, we are having weekly meetings now so that we’re all on board what unit is vacant. We go by the oldest in, you know, that’s been vacant for longest, so those are the ones we want to do first. We meet each week. Where are my laborers? They’ve got five days per HUD. I don’t care what’s going on. If it’s gonna take that long, like if we had to redo the flooring because of asbestos, and refloor it, we keep it offline. We put it in, you know, (inaudible) offline. That’s a HUD subsystem that they have. We don’t get any subsidy for it but it doesn’t hurt us because it’s offline and not just a vacant unit sitting there. So then we have weekly meetings. Now we had
one, it was today. Today’s been quite a day. We got new computers. We’re being audited. And we just found one of our residents dead in his apartment. So it’s not been a pleasant day.

Commissioner Diaz: Mr. Mayor, excuse me.

Chairman Teso: Time out.

Ms. Chico: Go on or wait?

Chairman Teso: Go ahead.

(Simultaneous conversation)

Commissioner Rogers: We’ll have to take a vote.

(Laughter)

(Simultaneous conversation)

Ms. Chico: I’m gonna continue. Anyway, we’re having meetings. You will be given each a month a, every one of our meetings and what’s going on. I just typed up the one from today. I will put that in the 21st Board Report to you, as well as next week’s because I put, we’ve got two weeks before the next meeting. So you’ll have two reports in there ‘cause I want you to know where we are with each unit, and where they go next. I know that one of our units we had a terrible time with, with apartment 305. I was told in one of our meetings that it would be ready and it could be leased up. I think our meeting was on Friday. It could be leased up on Tuesday. So Cecilia Calderon, who does our lease ups for Public Housing, brought in the person, went in and it was all the cleaning materials, everything else in there, nothing had been touched. Well, let’s just say it was not a pleasant meeting today when we had our maintenance meeting. Actually, I lied. I think it was yesterday. I beg your pardon. Anyway, today that apartment is spic and span. The floors have been waxed. Everything was done that needed to be done, wiped down, cleaned up, everything in one day. That can happen as long as my Maintenance Supervisor is supervising. So, I’ve got to make sure I’m jumping on him so he’s jumping on the guys. And that’s going to help us because the turnaround time will be much faster. Cecilia has packets for every, you know, for every vacant unit she’s got a family ready, or a person, ready to move right in. So, she’s ahead of the game. We’re just waiting for the unit to be ready. What happens when we have a bad occupancy percentage, we don’t get the subsidy we should. And it’s also reflected in our scoring from REAC and from HUD, or HUD REAC because it affects our capital fund program. I think they’re finding, they’re trying to find excuses, as far as I’m concerned, when it deals with capital funds, make a deal with Public Housing (inaudible) but they do, that’s their baby, we live with it. But HUD does want the Board to approve the Corrective Action Plan as it is now. I will send my same letter that I sent to you with my comments, along with the Resolution to them so they know that we are working on this. Margaret Skipper and I will then go through and we can tweak some of the, the dates on there. She wanted ten units a week. That’s not gonna happen. That’s ridiculous. But anyway, we’ll have our comments in there. Margaret and I will get together. We can tweak them. I’ll bring it back to you and just let you know what it was, you know, it’s an approved document. But they ...
Commissioner Diaz: (Inaudible) ...

Ms. Chico: ... (inaudible).

Commissioner Diaz: ... (inaudible).

Commissioner Oyegbola: Mr. Chairman, Mayor, or (inaudible) Board session. Mr. Mayor, quick question. I’m looking at the percentages and they seem pretty good to me from, from 90 to 100 on, on attachment three. Is there anything that affects seasonably as far as occupancy rates that HUD should be aware of or ...

Ms. Chico: Not ...

Commissioner Oyegbola: ... not, not really?

Ms. Chico: ... (inaudible). No.

Commissioner Oyegbola: No?

Ms. Chico: It looks good, but we when you take all of the percentages, because we’ve got a couple that are low that bring the overall score down ‘cause the, the percentages where I show across for each development.

Commissioner Oyegbola: Yeah.

Ms. Chico: If you bring it down, you add, or you divide those by 4, that’s what brings our percentages down. HUD, and I have to talk to Margaret Skipper about that, in the actual Corrective Action Plan, she wants 98%. That’s not in the Federal Regs., 96%. Of course, I want 100%. But you have days like today, or in the next resolution we talk about our skips. Things happen that we have absolutely no control over. So we have to, and again, the main thing is to turn these things around, get somebody in there. But there is no seasonal. Our, you’ll see that we’re going to be increasing that percentage. When we get to 96, it’s more of a phew! When we get to 98, I can actually breathe. When we get to 99 and 100, I’ll be doing, no, I will not, ‘cause I haven’t done a somersault in years. But it will be a happy time.

Chairman Teso: I had a question on attachment number 3 as well. And it has to do with the Casa de Bernie Sedley.

Commissioner Rogers: What attachment? Which one?

Chairman Teso: Attachment number 3.

Ms. Chico: Bernie Sedley?

Chairman Teso: Three, three from the back of, three pages back. Yeah, and total units is equal to units available plus units occupied.
Ms. Chico: Right.

Chairman Teso: And, and there seems to be a, a, one off there?

Ms. Chico: Oh, okay. Obviously, I can’t add or subtract.

(Laughter)

Chairman Teso: I was just wondering.

Ms. Chico: It should be 48 that are occupied. Thank you.

Chairman Teso: Okay.

Ms. Chico: I’ll make sure the numbers are correct next time.

Chairman Teso: Alright.

Commissioner Oyegbola: Okay. It looks like tomorrow is (inaudible).

Ms. Chico: They’re also the largest units, that’s why.

Commissioner Oyegbola: Oh, okay.

Ms. Chico: We had a little problem with those. When you get into a four-bedroom, two bath apartment ...

Chairman Teso: So the two-bedroom, the two-bedrooms are the hardest to fill?

Ms. Chico: No, no, the four-bedroom.

Chairman Teso: The four-bedroom?

Ms. Chico: Yeah, and the three-bedroom because just of the square footage, the time the families have been in there, damage, you know, just normal wear and tear, number one. But if there is damage that’s picked up in the move-out, the unit has to be totally repainted on the interior. I want it to look nice for our next family. I don’t want them thinking they’re going into public housing.

Chairman Teso: Yeah.

Ms. Chico: I want them to be proud of where they’re living. This is the bigger home. So it does take a little longer than a studio apartment. Or a one-bedroom. Just because of size. The bigger, the more work.

Chairman Teso: Do we have any other questions regarding the Corrective Action Plan?
Commissioner Lopez: I have a question. You got 20 days turnaround for like a feasible number of days to turnaround your apartment.

Ms. Chico: HUD gives us one person per apartment no matter what size, and five days.

Commissioner Oyegbola: Do you have a waiting list?

Ms. Chico: Oh, I have a wait list, yes. But Mr. Lopez was asking about the time that we have to, you know, turn a unit around and it’s 5 days no matter how big it is. That’s why I said, you know, if there’s gonna be a lot of work in there, and that’s where, there’s been a little lack of communication between maintenance and me. Because if it’s going to take a lot, I can take it offline so we’re not hurt by it. But if you don’t tell me about it, I don’t take it offline. And then we get into Corrective Action Plans.

Commissioner Oyegbola: One more quick question. How do they give you like a notice before they leave (inaudible) ...

Ms. Chico: Oh, our ...

Commissioner Oyegbola: ... move out?

Ms. Chico: ... residents?

Commissioner Oyegbola: Mm hm.

Ms. Chico: They’re supposed to ...

Commissioner Oyegbola: (Inaudible).

Ms. Chico: ... give us 30 days.

Commissioner Oyegbola: Okay.

Ms. Chico: We do know that some people are success stories and actually bought a home and they’ve asked if they could leave in two weeks. Absolutely. I think it’s more of letting us know rather than skips.

Commissioner Diaz: Mr. Mayor, if there are no further comments or suggestions regarding Resolution No. 20-01, I move to approve Resolution No. 20-01 of the Governing Board of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, approving and adopting the Corrective Action Plan by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and authorizing the execution of this resolution for the purpose of authorizing the City of South Tucson Housing Director to submit the Corrective Action Plan to HUD by the January deadline.

Commissioner R. Romero: Second.
Commissioner Rogers: Mr. Mayor, do we …

Chairman Teso: Any discussion?

Commissioner Rogers: … do this in Study Session?

Chairman Teso: What’s that?

Commissioner Rogers: Do we move in Study Session? As a Council, as, do we? Do we vote in this Study Session?

Ms. Chico: This isn’t a Study Session.

Chairman Teso: This isn’t a Study Session.

Commissioner Rogers: Oh, I thought this was a …

Chairman Teso: It’s a Housing Board.

Commissioner Rogers: … Study Session.

Chairman Teso: It’s just a Housing Board.

Commissioner Lopez: It’s a Housing Board.

Commissioner Rogers: Oh, okay. I, I thought we exited our Regular Council, but we’re in a …

Chairman Teso: We did exit our Regular Council …

Commissioner Rogers: We’re in a regular, …

Chairman Teso: Yeah, and went into …

Commissioner Rogers: … okay, yeah.

Chairman Teso: … Housing Board.

Commissioner Rogers: I thought we went into study about all this. Okay.

Chairman Teso: Okay.

Commissioner Rogers: Sorry.

Chairman Teso: Mr. Oyegbola.
Commissioner Oyegbola: Aye.
Chairman Teso: Mr. Romero
Commissioner R. Romero: Aye.
Chairman Teso: Mr. Diaz.
Commissioner Diaz: Aye.
Chairman Teso: Ms. Romero.
Commissioner A. Romero: Aye.
Chairman Teso: Ms. Rogers.
Commissioner Rogers: Aye.
Chairman Teso: Mr. Lopez.
Commissioner Lopez: Aye.
Chairman Teso: Aye. Motion carries.

ITEM #10 – RESOLUTION NO. 20-02 OF THE HOUSING GOVERNING BOARD OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA, APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE WRITE-OFF OF $2,958.50 IN UNCOLLECTIBLE DEBTS FOR THE SOUTH TUCSON HOUSING AUTHORITY (STHA) AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THIS RESOLUTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON HOUSING AUTHORITY DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT SAME TO HUD AND ITS FEE ACCOUNTANT

Ms. Chico: Chairman Teso, Board of Commissioners, once again we’ve got to do some write-offs. If you look on the template here, we had one, two, three, four of these people have skipped. We used to call them “midnight move”. Now, I think it’s just, it’s easier to say skip. They did not give us notice. We hear from someone else that they saw furniture being moved out. And then if there’s something, even the smallest thing that’s still in that apartment, we have to wait 30 days for, to prove abandonment. And that kind of hurts us, too, but as long as we let HUD know that we have to wait the legal 30 days, then they kind of give us some time to, but usually, if we know that somebody owes money, or they’re in trouble, or they’re in the eviction process and we hear that there’s furniture moving out, I’ll have one of our maintenance, and usually Robert, go over and do a welfare check. And he’ll say everything is cleaned out. In that case, we know they’re gone. Unfortunately, we had one who was in the eviction process for criminal activity. He passed away. So, obviously, that ends that. We had one that willingly moved out prior to an eviction and I always give ‘em that chance because, obviously, it saves time and it saves money to let them willingly move out. And so that person I agree, agree upon the move-out final date but I’ll never let them have more than 30 days. Just so they got a chance to go find another place. But they also leave with money owed. So, the total amount through all the things that we’ve gone through is $2,958.50.

Chairman Teso: Do we have any questions for Ms. Chico?

(No questions from the Governing Board)

Commissioner Oyegbola: Mr. Mayor, if there are no other questions or comments, I’d like to make a motion to approve Resolution No. 20-02 of the Housing Governing Board of the City of South Tucson, Arizona,
approving and adopting the write-off of the $2,958.50 in uncollectible debts for the South Tucson Housing Authority and authorizing the execution of this resolution for the purpose of authorizing the City of South Tucson Housing Authority Director to submit the same to HUD and its fee accountant.

Commissioner R. Romero: Second.

Chairman Teso: Any discussion?

(No discussion from the Board)

Chairman Teso: Go to roll call.

Chairman Teso: Mr. Oyegbola.
Commissioner Oyegbola: Aye.
Chairman Teso: Mr. Romero
Commissioner R. Romero: Aye.
Chairman Teso: Mr. Diaz.
Commissioner Diaz: Aye.
Chairman Teso: Ms. Romero.
Commissioner A. Romero: Aye.
Chairman Teso: Ms. Rogers.
Commissioner Rogers: Aye.
Chairman Teso: Mr. Lopez.
Commissioner Lopez: Aye.
Chairman Teso: Aye. Motion carries.

Ms. Chico: Thank you. One more here and it has nothing to do with anything. And I wish Andy Luna was still here. It just hit me tonight, for some reason, Andy Luna and Robert Leyvas are part of the reason why my son got into fire fighting and now he’s with Health and Safety for the mines, teaching men how to operate a fire engine and how to be a fireman. So, he’s a trainer now. But 17 years ago when my son was 16, through the County Summer Youth Program, he was here in South T. And talk about a band of brothers. You couldn’t have asked for better men to be role models for your son. So, I just wanted to say that.

Chairman Teso: Thank you.

Commissioner Lopez: Thank you.

Chairman Teso: Okay. Do we have a motion to adjourn from Housing Session and reconvene as the City Council into ...

Councilman R. Romero: So moved.

Chairman Teso: ... Regular Session?
Commissioner Rogers: So moved.

Commissioner R. Romero: Second.

Chairman Teso: Mr. Oyegbola.
Commissioner Oyegbola: Aye.
Chairman Teso: Mr. Romero
Commissioner R. Romero: Aye.
Chairman Teso: Mr. Diaz.
Commissioner Diaz: Aye.
Chairman Teso: Ms. Romero.
Commissioner A. Romero: Aye.
Chairman Teso: Ms. Rogers.
Commissioner Rogers: Aye.
Chairman Teso: Mr. Lopez.
Commissioner Lopez: Yes.
Chairman Teso: Aye. We’re back in Regular Session.

ITEM #11 – DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO SET A DATE, TIME AND PLACE FOR MAYOR AND COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Mr. Vidaurri: Mr. Mayor, members of the City Council, this is an item that’s been discussed off and on in previous City Council meetings. Vice-Mayor Lopez thought that it might be a good idea to have City Council consider a work session to talk about what’s been accomplished to date, and what the City Council would like to see down the road over the next 12 month period. And so that is why this item is on the agenda, to see whether or not this is something City Council wishes to do.

Councilwoman Rogers: Mr. Mayor, I think it would be a good way to count to seven to do that ‘cause I think several people know what’s going on more than maybe three others, but I just let you know that I have, you know, to schedule it for when I have these things, I have lots of things, for jury duty, January 15, in terms of setting a time or date. Maybe I’ll be picked on a jury. So, but I’m totally available 24/7.

Councilman Romero: Mr. Mayor, set a date, I’ll be there.

Mayor Teso: Okay.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Well, is there a motion to table it or ...

Councilwoman Rogers: No.

Acting Mayor Diaz: ... is that what I heard?
Councilwoman Rogers: There is no motion. We didn’t do anything yet. I was just letting you know when I’d be available.

Councilman Romero: Set a date and let’s do it.

Mayor Teso: Sure.

Councilwoman Rogers: Date and time.

Mayor Teso: Do we need to vote on it?

Councilwoman Rogers: Well, I just want to let you know, Mr. Mayor, that a person or there is this person in our City that wanted to be very sure that they could come. They read this agenda on their laptop or whatever, the site. And so that they, they have some time to be able to attend too. It’s an open meeting thing.

Mayor Teso: Right.

Councilwoman Rogers: So, couldn’t be like two days from now where they, nobody ...

Mayor Teso: No.

Councilwoman Rogers: ... could be told or called.

Mr. Vidaurri: If Mayor and Council would like, at the next meeting you could think about it and, and ...

Mayor Teso: Set a date.

Mr. Vidaurri: ... see what’s best for you as far as a date and time, and then we can have actual discussion and consideration and a motion to accept that date and time and location.

Mayor Teso: Okay. So, you could add that to the next agenda then.

Mr. Vidaurri: Yes.

Councilwoman Rogers: Yeah, that would be good.

Mayor Teso: Alright. If there’s no other discussion, we’ll move onto Item #12.

ITEM #12 – ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Teso: Do we have a motion to adjourn?

Councilman Romero: Got it.
Councilman Oyegbola: (Inaudible) Mr. Mayor, before we adjourn I’d like to sing a song for, no, I’m sorry. I’d like to make a motion to adjourn tonight’s meeting.

Councilwoman Rogers: It’s already been ...

Councilman Romero: Second.

Councilwoman Rogers: ... moved.

(Simultaneous conversation)

Mayor Teso: 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: Aye.
Mayor Teso: Aye. We’re adjourned then.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

_______________________________________
Mayor ATTEST:
CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council of South Tucson, Arizona, held on the 7th day of January, 2020. I further certify the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this ______ day of ______________________, 2020.

____________________
Veronica Moreno, City Clerk