Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, held Tuesday, January 21, 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
Manny Amado, Public Safety Director
Angel Lopez, Public Works Director

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

Others: Alonzo Morado, Primavera Foundation
Kelly Griffith, Dir., Center for Economic Integrity

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, except for Councilwoman Romero, who was excused.

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 anybody in the audience that would like to speak?

(No response from the audience)

Mayor Teso: Let the record show that no one in the audience is speaking tonight.
ITEM #06 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 7, 2019

Councilwoman Rogers: Mr. Mayor, I have a few, just a few corrections or additions. On page 3 of 35 pages of minutes, in the, after the large paragraph on that page, it says Councilwoman Rogers, I answer right, and then it says then I asked for two to be harder. But I did, I asked for them to be heard. Okay. On page 4, I don’t know if it’s a big deal or not, but I don’t think there should be two seconds to something that we vote on. Vice-Mayor Lopez seconded it and so did I, so I would like to correct that to be Lopez and not me, if possible. Then page 5 is kind of important because it’s a little bit funny, in a way, because we’re talking about fires, and volts, and volts, and voltage, etcetera, anyway, Kevin Volk is the owner and his name is Volt, V-O-L-T, not Volk. But it says Volt in all the minutes. So, and I know we have our minutes typed from a hearing audio, but I don’t want it to be volts having to do with fires and stuff. It’s V-O-L-K. And it’s also on page 13, again, I believe, it’s Kevin Volk, V-O-L-K. That’s all the ones that I’ve seen that are kind of important.

Mayor Teso: Do we have any other changes or corrections?

(No changes or corrections by the Council)

Mayor Teso: I have one and it’s on page 18 of, where we were asking about the, two of the employees, John Martínez and Margo, it didn’t have a last name.

Chief Amado: Oh, Corrales.

Mayor Teso: Corrales?

Chief Amado: Yes.

Mayor Teso: Okay. If we could make that change, I would appreciate it. That’s all I have.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Mr. Mayor, if there’s no more additions or corrections to the Regular Meeting of January 7th, I move to accept.

Councilman Romero: Second.

Mayor Teso: Any discussion?

(No discussion by the Council)

Mayor Teso: Mr. Oyegbola.
Councilman Oyegbola: Aye.
Mayor Teso: Mr. Romero.
Councilman Romero: Aye.
Mayor Teso: Mr. Diaz.
Acting Mayor Diaz: Aye.
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 speak?

Councilwoman Rogers: Mr. Mayor, I have a specific, just four quick things. One, just for the City and the City’s knowledge, the Spanish Trail is for sale and it, you can, the owners of it are the same owners as the South 6th Avenue Suites across from Burger King, and that’s already sold. And now, Spanish Trail, if you look at loop.net, all residents can find out for themselves instead of asking me ‘cause I’m not a reporter. Okay. So that’s for sale. And then the next item is, oh, this is just, I think everybody would probably know, but maybe not the audience. The Meinke had it’s great open, grand opening there on South 6th Avenue, which is really great, across from (inaudible) very happy at the Paradise, very happy. And then the third thing is everybody knows that Good Deals closed its business last week. So, and then the next one is, my last one is a person who is very active in this community informed me, and I’ll try to get brochures, there’s going to be two meetings coming up. One will be in front of City Hall and that will be February, February 11th, I believe. And that, and then there will be one at 3rd Avenue and 32nd or something, somewhere around where Brian Flagg is, that area, and that one will be on the, March 1st, and those will both, I believe, and if it changes I’ll let everybody know it, open meeting, what’s going on, that will, those will both be subject to stop the gentrification of South Tucson. That’s all I have.

Mayor Teso: Okay.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, just let the community know that on the, February 7th, at 4:00 p.m., Healthy South Tucson is having their meeting at the library, Sam Lena. Starts at 4:00. And then on the 23rd of this month, we’re having a meeting pertaining to the bike.

Mayor Teso: Cyclovia?

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Cyclovia. Yes, thank you. At the American Eats on the 23rd. So, and that’s, those people that are interested in the planning of the Cyclovia bike event here in the City of South Tucson. And that’s all I have for now, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Teso: Thank you. Do we have any other reports or current events?

Acting Mayor Diaz: Mr. Mayor, I’d like to report on the, give my thanks to Pima Animal Control. I borrowed a dog cage from them and I was able to capture three cats and seven dogs. I’m also having problems of a, somebody looking for their dog. And, of course, letting the dogs out that I’ve caught. So, that’s becoming a routine; I go out there and set, reset the trap. But anyway, I appreciate the Pima County Animal Control. And,
I think if we can get the word out, they’re very willing to work with individuals because they do need an address to respond to. So, like word gets out that they can borrow a cage and they will come immediate, or pretty close to immediate, within a half hour, to pick up the dog once the, you know, once you call ‘em. So they’re doing a good job and I appreciate that. Thank you.

Mayor Teso: Do we have any other reports or current events?

(No other reports or current events from Council)

Mayor Teso: Okay. Thank you. Do we have any future agenda items?

Councilman Oyegbola: Mr. Mayor, City Manager Vidaurri, I’d like to, as a future agenda item, put into motion to work on the City of South Tucson Business Plan. So, I want to put together a strategy for that.

Mayor Teso: Okay. Thank you. Do we have any other future agenda items?

Councilwoman Rogers: Mr. Mayor, could some of those come up on, when we do the Study Session? What, what’s going on there? Maybe we’ll learn a lot more. That’s that last item tonight.

Mayor Teso: Right.

Councilwoman Rogers: I’m not sure. I don’t want to say something.

(Background conversation)

Councilwoman Rogers: Yeah, (inaudible) too much.

Mayor Teso: Okay.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Mr. Mayor, there’s another one that’s, I guess they requested some information regarding the 5G. I guess the pedestals are going up now to, to, for the towers to be set in. And they’re at, right now they’re at 22nd, between 22nd and 23rd on 6th Avenue, but I see pedestals going up on 29th and 4th, and 4th Avenue. So, if, what kind of a, speed that process up. Thank you.

Mayor Teso: Okay. Do we have any other future agenda items?

(No other future agenda items from Council)

Mayor Teso: No? Okay. Thank you.

ITEM #08 – CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENT HEADS: REPORTS TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Mr. Vidaurri: Mr. Mayor, members of the Council, we’ve had a number of different meetings over the past couple of weeks. We met with Joe Lennar to discuss affordable housing development in the City of South Tucson. I think that that’s one of the issues that’s come up as far as gentrification and that whole discussion about gentrification has arisen over the past several months, and some meetings are now being held to discuss that in public. We also had a meeting with Chicanos Por La Causa to discuss some potential affordable housing development as well. In this case, we’re talking about modular housing, which might be more affordable to residents of our community. We had meetings with our Grant Writer and staff to target grant opportunities in each of the departments. We continue to have those meetings and hope to identify some areas where we can reduce the expense to the City of actually having to purchase equipment, and many instances, capital equipment which is very expensive, and actually providing additional staff at a reduced cost to the City, as currently we are under-staffed in many of our departments. We had a kick-off meeting with the Pima County Flood Control District to initiate the City of South Tucson mapping project. Vice-Mayor attended that meeting, as did our Acting Mayor. That was a very good meeting and we hope that that particular project which will map out drainage issues currently existing in the City of South Tucson to be completed around the end of April of this year. We had a meeting with Mr. Richard Estrada who is current, I think, VP of LULAC, to discuss his thoughts on development and marketing the City of South Tucson. I think those were very productive meetings. The Mayor was able to attend. The Vice-Mayor was able to attend. And the purpose, as I mentioned, was to discuss different possibilities for letting folks know that we’re here and we want to attract business, and we want to attract business opportunities that will hopefully increase sales tax revenue to the City, and allow us to become a more productive and well-staffed organization. We had a meeting with CDBG staff to discuss the proposed General Plan update and sources of funds to finance that update. In discussions with Mick Jensen, our Senior Planner, it looks like that project is going to run around $100,000, maybe a little more, but we’re trying to lessen the impact to the City in terms of expenses for the update of that plan. We think that we can get that plan updated without having the City to expand much money at all. At least that’s our goal. Our City Attorney has researched the matter of appointment of a lobbyist. The Legislative Session kicked off on January 13th. And we’d like to recommend that the Council consider appointing a lobbyist as there’s some legislation that’s going to be considered this session, the 54th Legislative Session, that could impact us directly. And we talked about the fact that we have a lot of abandoned vacant buildings owned by absentee property owners. And they’ve resulted in a lot of blithe in the community and so we’re hoping that Council does consider appointing a lobbyist to represent the City, should the need be, to support the proposed legislation that the Arizona League of Cities has developed and intends to submit through Mr. Shope, representative from District 8. Staff is currently in the process of developing a proposed rate and fee schedule for a marijuana dispensary and grow location. As you know, the Planning and Zoning Commission recently approved a location here in our community. And we will be meeting with the owners of, the purchasers of property for that grow location is intended to be started, this coming Thursday to discuss the development of a fee schedule, which will come back to City Council with a recommendation from staff at some point in the near future. At 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, January the 30th at Tucson City Hall, 255 West Alameda, 1st floor conference room, there’s a Homeless Coalition meeting. And I would encourage those of you that can make it to attend that meeting. As you know, we do have a homeless issue here in our community and the more we work together, I think the better off we’ll all be. On Friday, January 24th, at 12:00 noon, I’m going to be attending an Economic Development and Appropriations roundtable that’s being hosted by PAG. And I understand, Mayor, that you may be attending that as well. I think it’s important to stay on top of what the latest information is with respect to economic development that we’ve talked about gentrification and economic development, the need to bring additional sales tax revenues to the community to lower the overall
sales tax for everybody. I think we can find common ground through affordable housing and enough programs that will allow us to pursue a very aggressive economic development program that enhances our sales tax revenues, that provides funding for badly-needed City operations and under-staffed departments. And with that, Mr. Mayor, that concludes my report.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Mr. Mayor, Mr. Vidaurri, I have a few questions regarding on the CDBG grant, is that open to the public for applications? And when are the applications open?

Mr. Vidaurri: The CDBG grant, I wish Mick Jensen was here this evening. He coordinates the CDBG Block Grant funding effort. It’s just now opening up for, for public meetings or hearings, is my understanding. What I can do, so that I provide you with the correct information, Mr. Mayor, Acting Mayor, members of the Council, is to get with Joel Gastelum with the CDBG program, and actually provide you with that schedule. And that way, you’ll know for sure what dates any public hearings might be held, and will allow your attendance at those meetings as well.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Okay. Thank you. In regards to the lobbyist, I think I forwarded you the name of Luis Gonzales. He’s a former City Manager for South Tucson, as one of the possible candidates for the position.

Mr. Vidaurri: Yes, you did. And I, I discussed this matter with the Mayor and the appointment of a lobbyist is an item that is being researched by our City Attorney. He, unfortunately, could not be with us this evening due to some issues, family issues. However, what I would like for Mr. Yu, our City Attorney, to do at our next City Council meeting is to provide you with a report on what his research has concluded and the different options that would be available to City Council should it decide to consider appointing a lobbyist. For example, each of you individually can act as a lobbyist without having to register with the Secretary of State by virtue of the fact that you’re appointed, elected officials. So that, and some other research that has been done by our attorney will be reviewed with you so that you have more options and will be able to make, I think, the more intelligent decision about how you would like to approach appointing a lobbyist.

Acting Mayor Diaz: So, with that, I’m assuming that we can have more than one lobbyist?

Mr. Vidaurri: Yes.

Councilwoman Rogers: Probably.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Vidaurri: Each of you can actually serve in that capacity.

Acting Mayor Diaz: In regards to the, I guess the meeting you’re going to have with PAG, is that at the PAG meeting on the 24th at 12 o’clock regarding economic ...

Mr. Vidaurri: Regarding, ...

Acting Mayor Diaz: ... (inaudible).
Mr. Vidaurri: ... it’s an economic development roundtable, sponsored by ...

Mayor Teso: Kirkpatrick.

Mr. Vidaurri: Kirkpatrick. Exactly.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Okay.

Mr. Vidaurri: And so, it’s at 12:00 noon. It’s at the PAG. A luncheon will be, we will be provided as part of the meeting, and it’ll discuss economic development and appropriations at the federal level, I’m assuming.

Acting Mayor Diaz: And the one on the homeless, that was at 3:30 on Thursday?

Mr. Vidaurri: The homeless meeting is 3:30 p.m., Thursday, January the 30th at City of South Tucson, City Hall, 1st floor conference room. And the group that’s meeting is the Homeless Coalition.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Okay. So, thank you.

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

Mr. Vidaurri: No, Mr. Mayor, not at this time.

Mayor Teso: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Vidaurri: Yes, sir.


Mr. Vidaurri: Mr. Mayor, members of the Council, this item is essentially a renewal of an IGA for Inspection Services Agreement. Our legal staff, Mr. Yu, has reviewed the format for the agreement, has approved the format of the agreement, and since this is only just a renewal of an existing Inspection Services Agreement, staff recommends that City Council consider approving Resolution No. 20-03.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, I’d like approve Resolution No. 20-03 of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, approving and adopting the intergovernmental agreement between the City of South Tucson and the Office of Manufactured Housing for the purpose of enforcing the Office of Manufactured Housing Installation standards and fees and authorizing the Mayor to execute this resolution.

Councilman Oyegbola: Second.
Acting Mayor Diaz: I have discussion, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Teso: Mr. Diaz.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Mr. Vidaurri, it’s a renewal process. And then you mentioned that what’s co-, the, I guess staff reviewed some of it.

Mr. Vidaurri: Staff reviewed all of it and the City Attorney, as is the City Attorney’s job, approved the format of the agreement for inspection services.

Acting Mayor Diaz: There is quite a bit of information under the Arizona Revised Statute that would mention it also calls for the Arizona Administrative Code Review regarding modular and portables. And I don’t see that within the structure of the, of the information provided for us. I would like to include some of that information, certificate, commercial, FBB, modular, new, permanent foundation, residential (inaudible), technical, home use, it goes on quite a bit. So, it’s, it’s quite extensive in regards to the code that we’re approving. And also, if it’s renewal, I’m assuming that you had conservation with maybe somebody that does want to use this particular issue for, I guess, affordable houses in South Tucson. Is that correct?

Mr. Vidaurri: That’s correct, Mayor, Mr. Acting Mayor. And the agreement that is before you this evening, is an agreement that’s provided by the State of Arizona, Department of Housing. And so they have had a turnover in staff and this agreement should have actually come to the Council several months ago, but because of the turnover in staff, it didn’t. It was delayed. We asked them to send us a copy of the agreement that they were recommending that the City of South Tucson consider approving. And we did receive this agreement. We have had some discussions. There have been some discussions of adopting and upgrading our actual International Building Code to a more current version of the Code. The City of Tucson is currently looking at that possibility. And we will be coming back to Council with a recommendation from staff whether or not that might be something that the City Council would like to consider in the City of South Tucson. Staff sees no problem with any of the language in the renewal agreement. And the City Attorney sees no problem with recommending approval of the format of the agreement. I can go into more detail at a later meeting with respect to your questions concerning code, but code is code and unless it’s revised or, or changed, this is what must be complied with.

Acting Mayor Diaz: In respect to having these types of homes in the City of South Tucson, I know I personally had issues with that before. And some of the issues were the fact that these types of home are not 50-year homes. Right now, the ones that are being flipped with our gentrification, are the older homes that are, are actual 50-year homes that are not this modular pre-fab homes. I haven’t seen one that is going to be flipped in regards to the modular pre-fab homes. So, my concern, a very deep concern, is that the fact that it really lowers the, the property value, per se, in respect to the longevity of the homes. It takes longer to get to, you know, the property value to go up versus the fact that you have a 50-year home going in that’s constructed and the property value goes up almost immediately. So that was my concern. And the other concern is that it’s not really affordable. I was checking the internet and the South Tucson home value, or home price values right now is $131,527, and that’s on the internet. So, you know, and the other fact is that to have a 1,300 square foot modular home, that’s around 50x44, according to what they, they were just estimating. So that,
that means that our lots are only 50 feet by 100 feet. So, this is, you know, it has to be long to fit in our lots if you’re gonna do these modular homes. So, 1,300 feet is, is, you know, a two-bedroom home with a two, with two baths. But it’s still not affordable. And that’s my real concern is that we go after these homes and it, it’s, it’s not, it doesn’t go along with our, with the, our City’s, what I would like to see our City become.

Mr. Vidaurri: Mr. Mayor, members of the Council, in response to that, let me say that, that the issue of the size of unit on a lot, with as many vacant lots and lots that are blighted that we have in the community now, that could be foreclosed on, that are owned by absentee property owners and could be redeveloped, that those lots can also be replatted. We can replat and make those lots larger. That’s a simple Planning and Zoning function. It can be done. Now in terms of whether or not a stick built and a modular home are equivalent in terms of housing value, staff thinks it is. And in terms of the cost for stick built versus modular, I can guarantee you because I’ve been involved in programs for, for these modulars under supervision of certified individuals were constructed in Mexico and brought across the border and the modular homes were set on properties that were owned by groups like CPLC and other 501(c)(3)’s. It can be done. You have to, you just have to have faith.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Well, I don’t have faith.

Mr. Vidaurri: I do. I have a lot of faith.

Acting Mayor Diaz: And, and ...

Mr. Vidaurri: It can be done, sir.

Acting Mayor Diaz: ... I think if you look around, the modular homes that are here now, I think there’s 19 modular homes and the rest are, you know, 50-year homes that are being built, and comparing the two, for almost the same price, I’d take the regular mortar and whatever, brick, is, you know, home versus a modular. And I really, you know, I understand what renewal means and (inaudible) zoning, but to me, this, renewal of, of this zoning is, is not conducive to our, our, to the City of South Tucson. And that’s my comment.

Councilwoman Rogers: Mr. ...

Acting Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Councilwoman Rogers: ... Mayor, I’d like to thank the Acting Mayor for going on this particular item because I did not know he would know some of it. I should have known that, but I was very, that’s the thing I called most about was this modular deal on the square footage, etcetera. And so I’m very just thanking somebody because I hear constantly that the staff thinks so. But the Council has voted to vote on it, and I had to say aye or nay, so thank you for other input.

Mr. Vidaurri: Mr. Mayor, I just want to point out that this is for inspection services. This is not for construction of new modular housing in town. Please understand this is an agreement with the Arizona Department of Housing for inspection, not for construction.
Councilman Romero: Basically, we’re just setting up standards that are across the board?

Mr. Vidaurri: Yes, sir. To inspect, not to construct.

Mayor Teso: Do we have any other comments from the Council?

(No comments from the Council)

Mayor Teso: Okay. Moving onto Roll Call.

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. Rogers.
Councilwoman Rogers: Aye.
Mayor Teso: Mr. Lopez.
Vice-Mayor Lopez: Yes.
Mayor Teso: Aye. Motion carries.

ITEM #10 – PRESENTATION BY PRIMAVERA FOUNDATION AND ECONOMIC INTEGRITY REGARDING PRE-SCHOOL PROMISE PROGRAM

Mr. Morado: Good evening, Mr. Mayor and members of the Council. The Pre-School Promise is something that we’ve been working on for a few years.

Mayor Teso: Excuse me. Could you introduce yourself?

Mr. Morado: Yes. My name is Alonso Morado and I work for the Primavera Foundation.

Ms. Griffith: My name is Kelly Griffith and I’m the Executive Director of the Center for Economic Integrity.

Mayor Teso: Thank you.

Mr. Morado: And Kelly, at one time, was a CEO at Primavera before Peggy. And that’s how we know each other and some of the funding for the Center for Economic Integrity comes through a grant that we receive at Primavera. So we work very closely together and we’re very happy to be here presenting to you. Last year, we went before the Board of Supervisors budget hearing to ask for the County to help us start a pilot program for pre-school for children that are in third and, three years and four years of age. The inequity across this community for children of that age is enormous and what we’re trying, we’re, we’re looking at is looking at to make sure that children ages three and four have the same type of education when they get to kindergarten
as other children that can afford to go to pre-school, pre-K classes and stuff. So we went to the Board of Supervisors and we were rejected. They said no. But the City, the County Administrator, Chuck Huckleberry, kept speaking with us and he told us, you know, what he wanted to see. And so the group, our group got together and we continued working with the County Administrator staff and with people in the community. And Kelly is going to explain to you the process that we went through all year to come back for the County Administrator is now saying there’s a possibility we, we can do this pilot program. What I wanted to come and speak to you about was I’ve always tried to instill in my daughter, who is a school teacher, she’s a first year school teacher this year at Grijalva Elementary School on Mission and Drexel. She had two years at the University of Arizona where she went out to student teach. The first year was at Pueblo Gardens, which is over here just north of 36th and, and east of Campbell. And it was quite an experience because the kids at, at Pueblo Gardens could hardly hold a pencil because they have no strength in their fingers because they’re not given any, any, or there aren’t pencils or crayons, or their parents work two, three jobs and stuff and there’s not enough time for those kids to learn at home, or to go to a pre-school and learn how to, you know, write their names or anything like that. It was, it opened her eyes because the following year, she went to student teach at Miles Exploratory, which is on Broadway and Treat. And that school, the parents are very well off. And most of the kids had pre-school. And those kids, there was kindergarten kids that she was able to teach; knew their names, their last name, their alphabet, the numbers, everything on the first day of school. That’s how far behind. And if you look at where Pueblo Gardens is and where Miles is, it’s, if you put a line straight on it, it’s, it’s about a mile. I mean you have to, you know, go through different roads and, to get there and stuff, and it’s gonna be more than a mile, but it’s that close. So, you know, the whole issue of where we live is what type of education we get. And, you know, there’s, there’s places that do provide pre-school for all their kids and the kids do so much better, all the way through university. So that was a big eye-opener for my daughter and I was so happy because I spent 26 years trying to teach her what the university taught her in two years; seeing that this, this, the inequity and, you know, the lack of pre-school for a lot of our community. So, it is very important for us to continue working on that. And as a member of Primavera, the Primavera Foundation, our mission is pathways out of poverty. And that’s why we work with a lot of groups to make sure that we’re addressing the issues of poverty so that we can get people out of poverty and into a system where they can have more equity. I’m gonna allow Kelly, ’cause I got an hour …

(Simultaneous laughter and conversation)

Ms. Griffith: So I’ve provided for each of you, in a purple folder, and in your purple folder, basically, is a trail of work that has spanned many, many years; many, many conversations, involved lots of different stakeholders, and it has involved lots of failure. And when I first started working on this issue, I thought, oh, gosh, pre-school. This is a great, this is a winning issue. This is something we should take on and get it, we addressed multi-generational poverty. It’s a no-brainer. And wow, was I naïve. Yeah. It’s, it’s been a really tough issue to move forward, not because people don’t agree that equal access to opportunity in this case, high quality pre-school, is a game-changer. Everybody agrees about that because 50 years of research has documented that it does. But what no one can agree on is how we’re gonna pay for it, and who’s gonna pay for it. Because quality pre-school is expensive. It’s about as expensive as sending a child to college. It’s about $10,000 a year, if you want to send a child to university, which I do. I have one in university right now and that’s what it costs to send a child to a quality pre-school per year, roughly between $8,000 and $10,000 so nobody wants to pay for it. The other thing that we’ve run up against is making sure, and this is what we, what Chuck said, you’re gonna have to go back to the drawing board. We want this to be a regional approach. We don’t want this to
be a Pima County thing, or a Tucson thing. We want it to be an everybody thing, which is why I’m standing before you right now with this whole long history of how we’ve come to make it an everybody thing. So we are hoping to launch the Pre-School Promise July 1, 2020, after all this work. You’ll see in your packet that Chuck Huckelberry sent us a memo stating to the effect that the County would be willing to put 1.9 million dollars towards the Pre-School Promise. In his memo, he put an interesting caveat. He said, “Contingent upon everybody participating and contributing to this effort,” and by everybody, he meant the City of Tucson, Oro Valley, Marana, and I’ll back up for a moment. In, in your packet, you’ll see a letter to the City of South Tucson and you’ll see a “United we all win,” by United Way. United Way has been a real strong partner with us on this, this final push and effort. This is a detailed proposal of how we’re gonna braid funding so the funding is coming from multiple sources for a very expensive program. It’s gonna come from the business sector, the philanthropic sector, from the public sector. We’re hoping to convince the City of Tucson to kick in a substantive amount of money, along with Pima County, different municipalities, based on what their capacity is, the children that they have. We’re looking at providing full-scholarships, full day quality pre-school for 3 and 4 year olds, anyone who is at 200% or below federal poverty level. Would we love to cover all children no matter what? We absolutely would. The price tag on that is pretty staggering when you think about it. So we’re gonna start where we know we’re gonna have the greatest impact. We’re gonna bring up that sort of gap where you have children starting out way behind their peers because there’s a code, frankly, because of where they live. And we hope to fund up to like 500 scholarships to start with and we want to continue to ramp that up over a multi-year timeframe. So, standing here before you, what we’re asking the City of South Tucson, Mr. Mayor and Council members, is that you will participate, that you will be one of those “contingent upon the participation of” that Chuck put in his memo. And, and understanding, in a very realistic way, asking the City of South Tucson to put money into a program is unrealistic, but what we are asking is that you would be willing to consider in-kind contributions to the Pre-School Promise as a good faith effort of marketing to residents of the City of South Tucson who have young children to let them know that this program exists and that they may qualify for it. And then what we would like to do is quantify, put a dollar figure to that in-kind outreach that you do to residents of City of South Tucson, and we could say, “City of South Tucson is putting in “X” number of dollars in marketing and outreach as a participant in the Pre-School Promise regional effort.” Does that kind of make sense, in a nutshell, of what we’re asking? I’m happy to answer questions as fast as I know it. One thing is that we are engaging with the public schools, and the public schools are putting in in-kind, roughly at about $2,000 per pupil. They’re gonna be expanding capacity for quality pre-school within the public schools. We’ve also had to look for capacity in private pre-schools. And so back during the recession when the State, in it’s lack of wisdom, did the slashing of everything budget-wise, pre-school took a huge hit at the State level. Then many, much of our capacity over the years has diminished because there’s no money to pay for people, for parents to put their children in pre-school. And so pre-schools have closed, basically. And so, to implement a program with this kind of scope and vision where we hope, ultimately, to have way more than 500 children in, we want to get 11,000 children. That’s our goal. All we want is a hundred million, a hundred, a hundred and twenty-five million, that’s what we’re looking for ultimately. Right? So, but we’re gonna start where we’re at. We’re gonna start with five million and we’re gonna ramp it up and it’ll be, will include, First Things First is gonna throw in extra dollars. Everybody is pitching in is what I’m saying. I’ve got, you know, an individual donor is gonna kick in $10,000 for one scholarship. We’re just gonna try and braid as much funding together as we can. The United Way proposal that she, that LaVonne put together for County Administrator Huckelberry outlines how we envision that to happen and what that might look like. This is his response. The Pre-School Promise, who we are, talking points, and sort of on the one-page of their, because sometimes people don’t have time to read everything. So, if you don’t have time to read everything, just read
the first page. And then I did, you know, the, we, we’ve gone back and forth with the County. I would also like to do a special shout-out to Supervisor Richard Elias who championed this issue when it was very unpopular to do so amongst his peers and colleagues, and continued to be out front on this issue, and not flinch at the price tag, and has worked with advocates on this issue for multiple years now and so I do believe that we owe him a debt of gratitude for his leadership and his willingness to go out on a limb for us on this very controversial issue. Yes, sir?

Councilman Oyegbola: So, quick question. In this regional plan, and you’re going and get, talking about Tucson, Marana, and other cities, and your folks, I guess you said you’re starting on 500, how would you make the decision on who gets the scholarships?

Ms. Griffith: That’s a …

Councilman Oyegbola: From (inaudible).

Ms. Griffith: … really, that’s an important question. And I don’t have an answer to the exact specifics of how that’s going to be administered. I don’t know if it’s going to be on a first-come first served basis, a lottery. It will have to be something equitable. It’s going to be administered as an intergovernmental agreement, probably, between Pima County, which is being negotiated right now. Tomorrow there will be a call for that. And, and State, which is First Things First as a State agency. So it will be an intergovernmental agreement and in all likelihood, will probably see United Way as the, the, on the ground administrator of that program and making sure that those dollars go where they’re supposed to go and that the reporting gets done in an equitable way. So, I don’t really have an answer to your specifics. I’m sorry about that. I just, …

Councilman Oyegbola: No, that’s fine.

Ms. Griffith: … we’re just not there yet.

Mr. Morado: As you can see, most of the school districts have, have come up and partnered with, with this program and stuff, so I’m sure there’s gonna be some at Amphi, some at Flowing Wells, …

Ms. Griffith: There is.

Mr. Morado: … some at Tucson Unified School District, some at Sunnyside. So, …

Ms. Griffith: Right.

Mr. Morado: … it’s not gonna be a major impact right, right away, but we’re hoping to make it an impact as we show that, that first five million dollars will be so effective that they want to do it over and over.

Ms. Griffith: We call it, I, I’ve been calling it, amongst my colleagues, the proverbial camel’s nose under the tent. That once we are able to get this program in place, it’s gonna be very popular. It’s gonna be very productive as a work force development, an economic driver as well for current generation work force, Pima County One Stop, Pima Community College, and it’s also, that second generation, that economic component
that’s gonna pay off later, in time, less investment in the criminal justice system, higher graduation rates, higher college attainment rates, so less of a drain on local resources because you’re gonna have people who are productive, out ahead of the game, and are able to break that multi-generational cycle of poverty. So, they’ll break free and they will lift their families up and out even as their, their parents are working their way out as well. So, it’s a win-win in the short-term, and most importantly, in the long-term.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Who’s gonna select the schools in each prospective school district? But who’s gonna select the schools, say like in the TUSD area?

Ms. Griffith: The school itself, actually, is selecting itself in, so if you’ll look, there’s a, here it says City of South Tucson Mayor and Council members, page 2, and if you look here, it’s gonna say “Pre-School Center”. And these are, so, so we’ve been in conversations with the different districts to say, “How do we quantify what you’re doing and where do you have capacity, and where do you hope to build capacity based on your own school district planning process?” So this is how it’s been identified thus far. So, for example, Tucson Unified School District, we are looking at Brichta Early Learning Center. If you go down Tucson Unified School District the Schumaker Center has been initially identified, Amphi School, Holloway Elementary has been identified, Flowing Wells, Emily Meschter Early Learning Center, Flowing Wells to be decided. You’ll see that there, still figuring out where. And as those funds manifest, and there’s another component to that, it’s my understanding that Sahuarita, they’re at capacity, they don’t really have anything they can do right now until we can get grant funds in there for brick and mortar to build, literally, physically build capacity for them to be able to add a classroom for early learning classroom. That’s gonna take longer than the three years that we’re hoping to roll this out, but we will be working with the different entities that have stepped up and said yes, we want to participate. This is what we can contribute to write grants to get them the brick and mortar funding that they need in order to expand and build those classrooms and expand capacity. And so, it’s a, we have a real short-term but ultimately there’s a very long game involved in here. This, I don’t want this to be, personally and professionally, but also our coalition is committed to sticking together and staying with this thing over the long-term as we build up capacity over time so that we go from two hundred fifty, five hundred, a thousand, five thousand, eleven thousand, three and four year olds. And that’s really the goal and we’ll have to build infrastructure and capacity in our public schools as well as in our private sector. We’ve always been a mixed use delivery system when it comes to pre-school. Other countries are not. We always have been. We don’t have a public pre-school system, per se. But at this point, what we really have is a capacity problem that we have to build up over time as well. And that takes money. Yes, sir?

Councilman Oyegbola: Last comment for the night. I applaud your effort in doing this, especially when it comes to education because it’s needed, but it always seems like, you know, when you have Red for Ed, and everything, why is, why isn’t more education initiatives funded? I mean, for me, who has so many student loans, I’m definitely in favor of what can be done to help progress students. So, something like this, I look at, for me, being here, is, is enough when I have student loans to pay to give back to a city like South Tucson. So, for the residents of South Tucson, and I know poverty is poverty, so if you’ve got poverty here, you’ve got poverty in Tucson, and you have it all in other places, just seeing how they can help and how we can see, who, who pretty much is going to be able to, okay, like for South Tucson on our size, how we can be able to say, okay, well, you have (inaudible) over here in Tucson or in Marana, but you know, statistically, South Tucson has a very large population and you have two schools here, Mission View and Ochoa, who I’m sure can
use a lot of this assistance, making those types of decisions and how we lobby to get more of our kids so, these kind of things.

Ms. Griffith: Right. Well, for one thing, the, the primary target right now, for example, let’s say we were at Marana instead. Maybe this will help answer that question a little bit better. So, Marana, we’re asking Marana to kick in money. And Marana’s gonna say, yeah, but if I kick in money, is it gonna be money going to our kids? And the answer is yes. And the same thing City of Tucson. Don’t think City of Tucson, they’re not gonna sit there and say, well, if we kick in $700,000, how are we gonna know that it’s our children that are getting those scholarships? Well, the answer is you will know and we can do that because we know where the children live. We know their zip codes, you know, we know their income level, we will, we know, you know, that those our, our slots are available and that that, you will get bang for your buck, per se, if you’re putting into this wherever you are. And so as far as City of South Tucson is concerned, and the residents and the children of the City of South Tucson, at, or 200% federal poverty level is our target, that’s our target. And so, the children in the City of South Tucson are, I mean I don’t know how to say this in a politically correct way, but it’s your children that we want to get into pre-school, high quality pre-school. And that’s the goal. And that’s why I’m standing before you today saying please, do some marketing and outreach to your families and we’ll call it your contribution to this program, carve out your space in this project early before it gets launched so that you have, your children have a place at that table because your children belong there. It’s why we are doing this work to begin with.

Mr. Morado: And I just want you to rest assured that I keep mentioning Ochoa and Mission View as possible places to come, so that is in their ears (inaudible). We don’t want to promise you something and it doesn’t happen. We, but as long as I’m mentioning (inaudible) South Tucson.

Councilwoman Rogers: Mr. Mayor, I would like to address the question. Maybe you would know it more than Lorenzo, perhaps. But I don’t, I guess I’m a little mixed up in the sense that back when I was on the school district in Vail, from ‘83 to ‘92, the ‘80s and ‘90s, we had non-stop, it came five zero vote for pre-school to be and we covered 400 miles every morning, Monday through Friday, for 3’s and 4’s and it’s still going today. So, I can’t even remember how we figured it out, but I’ve gotten thank you’s when I go back for retirement parties that it’s still going. How do they, how did we get that vote, five zero, to have pre-school? I believe perhaps it was, and at Vail with 400 miles, one school, no money. So, we had to send the kids to Santa Rita High School, so we’re not talking Richie, what it is today. So, how can they start that many years, 20, 30 years ago, still be doing it, 3’s and 4’s, and we’re asking for all this different way right now? I don’t know the answer. Maybe you do.

Ms. Griffith: I know Vail has a very robust pre-K program. And they’ve actually been at the table while we were having these conversations and providing input as we were putting it together. I think the best way that I can answer your question is it’s not enough. Not nearly enough. Especially after what the State did during the last recession. And that what we hope to do, we’re not supplanting anything.

Councilwoman Rogers: Okay.

Ms. Griffith: What we’re doing is we are adding to with this. So this is not supplanting an existing program. It’s building on top of it. And they have braided funding there as well, I’m guessing. And so the idea is to
continue to bring those dollars in to the areas that have the capacity to take on these 3 and 4 year olds. And then to build capacity where capacity needs to be built so that we can continue to add more as time goes on and we’re able to convince more folks who are in leadership that this is a worthwhile investment, even though it’s expensive upfront. The pay-off down the road is, the return on that investment is really high.

Councilwoman Rogers: Not supplanting is a fine answer for me.

(Simultaneous conversation)

Mr. Morado: And Councilwoman Rogers, it’s political will. The five “o” got it. Vail ...

Councilwoman Rogers: Yeah, five zero.

Mr. Morado: ... School District. It’s political will and, and that just, you know, when you’re looking at cuts because the State is not giving you the amount of money and stuff. It’s the political will of the five people we have on our boards, at Sunnyside, at TUSD, at Amphi, at Flowing Wells. And, you know, so they make those decisions and so, you know, we need, so we, that’s why we’re pushing from the outside. We’re not members of the Board of Education.

Acting Mayor Diaz: I have some comments. Now your grant is for low-income families. I thought it would be more inclusive. We’re in a generation now where grandparents and great-grandparents are taking care of, of the, you know, pre-K people, grown-ups now, so I see it’s limited because especially when you mentioned the federal poverty level. But we do need those kind of kids in the system that, for better education, you know. And I see that as a, kind of a line in the sand type thing, that there might not let some of the kids in the program.

Ms. Griffith: Right. You know, thank you for bringing that up, the grandparents raising grandchildren, and the kinship caregivers. It’s, it’s a big project of the Center for Economic Integrity. We work with those grandparents and those kinship caregivers. And some of those grandparents and kinship caregivers would qualify at the 200% and some of them wouldn’t. Some of them would qualify through the State DES subsidies because they’re DCS involved and so they get, they get to be put in the queue and some of them, because they are just informal families, they’re not on anyone’s radar, and they don’t qualify for anything. And it’s unjust and we are certainly working to rectify that at the State level. Right now, during the State Legislative Session and subsequent sessions we’ve been working on that. Does it connect to the pre-school issue? It does. The Arizona Grandparents, Southern Arizona Grandparent Ambassadors endorse this Pre-School Promise Program. They whole-heartedly support it. Their chair and their members are fully behind it. Some of them may benefit, some of them may not. It’s an economic issue that 200% federal poverty level is about, you know, it’s a hundred million dollar program. If we start raising, which I would like to do, that to 400, at 400% federal poverty level, a teacher, two teachers on a teacher’s salary would fund, would qualify for free pre-school. Right? So we’re, I mean this is a, it’s a low ...

(Coughing in background)
Ms. Griffith: ... (inaudible). You’re right, it is. And the problem, though, is there are so many children in this region that fall under 200% federal poverty and it’s so expensive to provide quality pre-K that we have to take care of them first and try and get the money to backfill and bring it up to 400% federal poverty. I know, it’s, it’s terrible. It’s a terrible way to have to do math. But that’s the math. And that’s why we are where we are today.

Mr. Morado: Acting Mayor, one other thing that I want to bring up is that the Grandparent Ambassadors that Kelly talks about, she, through her center, administers the Grandparent Ambassadors statewide and, from Southern Arizona. Those very grandparents came to see Peggy Hutchinson, our CEO, about eight years ago about the need for housing for grandparents raising grandchildren. That’s how we got Las Abuelitas. They’re the ones that advocated for it. They actually were, worked with our architects to design it. The only thing is that we screwed up by taking President Obama’s stimulus money and so we, with those funds, we were not, we didn’t meet the Fair Housing where we could set it aside for grandparents. But we continue working with the Grandparent Ambassadors. In fact, they meet at Las Abuelitas on a monthly basis. And they’ve been working and they’ve gotten a stipend from the State of Arizona for grandparents that are raising grandchildren. I think it’s $75.

Ms. Griffith: And we hope to double it this year.

Mr. Morado: And the governor has asked to double that for them and stuff, so they’re very active. It’s great working with those grandparents ‘cause if you would need a lobbyist, those grandparents are the best.

Councilwoman Rogers: Thank you.

Mayor Teso: Any other comments? No? Questions?

Ms. Griffith: Thank you for your time.

Mayor and Council: Thank you.

ITEM #11 – PRESENTATION BY MARIA VIANEY CARDENAS REGARDING CENSUS 2020

Ms. Cardenas: Hello, my name is Maria Vianey Cardenas. I represent the U.S. Census Bureau in Pima and Pinal County, working directly with local officials in helping us in creating those partnerships about awareness and motivation education. The census is gonna be on April 1, 2020, so we’re like almost 80 days away. So what, why I’m here is because in 2010, and that’s something that I already shared with Mayor, and Vice-Mayor, and City Manager, in 2010, the City of South Tucson, according to the census data information, had 57% of non-response. So, more than half of your residents did not answer the questionnaire. Thirty-seven of those residents did self-response. What it means, they took the initiative to call or make the questionnaire on paper, and then the rest, they were people coming into their home, you know, knocking on doors and helping them to fill out the form. So, according to the census data, that’s a very high number; 57% is a lot. So, just to let you know, that’s the highest percentage that we have collect in 2010 through the whole State of Arizona. So, it makes a lot of, in fact, it’s about 675 billion dollars that the federal government distributes, according to
the census data information that we collect every ten years. Average is almost $3,000 per person for the next ten years. So, if you make the math, it’s almost $30,000 per person that the City lose for the next ten years. And it doesn’t change in three years, four years. That information stays locked for the next ten years. So one of the things that Census Bureau would like to see is to have community members come together and, you know, work together and make a difference in your community. And that’s why we’re here. We are asking you to, you know, we’re gonna put together a Complete Count Committee. Pima County is willing to help you out. We have a great commitment through Pima County. We have great commitments through the City of Tucson so everyone is willing to help. I have some businesses and non-profit organizations within the limits of the City of South Tucson willing to help you. Why? Because you can’t do it alone. We can’t do it alone. So, we need to collaborate and be able to be successful. We want to make sure that the City of South Tucson has a way better percentage of response that what we did in 2010. So, for the first time in the history of the United States, people can fill out the form online starting March 12, 2020. So, there’s only nine questions. No questions about citizenship. No questions about your background or anything like that. All we do is just collect data information. Why? Because it’s redistricting. It’s about money. It’s, in the Constitution it’s mandated in the Constitution. It’s your civic duty. And it’s making sure that you have the resources that you need, you know, for the fire department, for the emergency services, for schools, for highways. You know, it, it makes a lot of difference in how we collect the data information, just making sure that the federal government is giving you the money that you need. But we need to make sure that we count everyone, including kids. In 2010, kids ages 0 to 5, it was a huge amount of kids through the United States that they were not count. And it was more than one million kids were not count. So now, when it comes to Arizona, the governor is saying, well, we need money for education. Right? Me, working at Mission View for many years, I see it, you know. We need money for schools. How are we gonna get the money if we don’t really, you know, communicate or educate our community, our parents, saying this is important. This is safe. And this is easy. Only nine questions. We, we’re not gonna share the information with any other federal agencies. It’s mandated in the Constitution under the U.S. Code 13 saying that our information is not shareable with any other federal entities, including law enforcement, ICE, Immigration, Social Security, or anything like that. I do have a folder, if, if, may I share with you? You can pass them out. I have some fliers, information in there about why it’s important and that’s some of the fliers that we’ve been using for awareness and motivation. Earlier this evening, we filmed outside our PSA video with the Mayor and the Vice-Mayor, in English and in Spanish, so you guys can use it for your website, your social media. And now, in 2020, we have the ability to use social media everywhere we go. So, you just click, click and share. And people will see what it is about. So, we do have a great commitment with TUSD so both of the schools are gonna be getting the information. Families, they’re gonna be getting educated through PTO meetings, community events. We’re gonna be in Cyclovia. We’re gonna, I mean like we say, you’re even gonna see us in the soup. Everywhere. PAG, Pima Association of Governments, with the help of Pima County and the City of Tucson, they’re putting together this huge amount of marketing and it’s gonna be on TV, news, and radio, on both languages. They’re investing a lot of money; to be exact, $200,000. So, any of that information available, you’re gonna be able to share on your end. You know, Pima County Supervisor Richard Elias is very well engaged and he’s reaching out to the grass root non-profit organizations. So, any way that you can connect us to other entities, we appreciate and, because we realize that it’s too hard for us to reach out to everyone. We need community-trusted voices to be able to reach out to our families. Like I said earlier, the governor is really, really pushing for Arizona to make sure that we count every single kid, including the newborns, even if they were born on April 1, they need to be counted. It makes a lot of difference money-wise. So, like I, you know, I said earlier, it’s about representation. In 2010, Arizona gained one seat in the legislation, so the governor is hoping that in 2020, we
gain two, which is for another state, it will be their loss. But Arizona will get it, right. So, we’re asking, you know, to pass out the information. Like I said, the, the questionnaire will be available online, but you can also do it by phone or by mail. If any of those three ways doesn’t work for you, then we will send somebody, three times, to your home. But remember, it takes almost $9,000 for an enumerator or census taker to send to your home. So if you really want to save money, you know, we really need to push the self-response, which is the three ways that I talked earlier. So, but then again, we need 7,000 people, 7,000 employees here in Southern Arizona, so we are accepting applications. We’re paying $16 an hour, flexible schedule. You can do a Monday through Sunday. It’s extra earned income. You get paid every week, which is great. You get paid mileage, 58 cents mileage. And then, again, you’re making a difference in your community, which is important why, you know, we do this. So, I’m gonna be passing out the fliers electronic to the City Manager and then he can be able to distribute it to your staff and some communities. We’re gonna have a presentation with Primavera Foundation on February the 4th, so hopefully they will be engaged to help us out since they work so close to the homeless population and they need, you know, those grant (inaudible) through the federal government. So, again, you know, one of the things that we really lost in 2010 here in Arizona was, you know, the trusting in federal government, bottom line. So, you know, the, the census is confidential. It gets locked for 72 years, your information, according to the U.S. Code 44. So, that’s how we need to communicate to people. Important, it’s easy, it’s safe. I don’t know if you guys have any questions for me. Maybe I went too fast. I do this like every day. So, like I said, you know, we’re gonna put together the complete Council meeting. And it’s about getting together community members, not specifically, you know, City employees, but more like community members. Any questions?

(No questions from the Council)

Ms. Cardenas: You all want to go home.

(Laughter)

Ms. Cardenas: Any questions? No? Okay, well thank you so much and we can keep communicating.

Councilwoman Rogers: Thank you.

Mayor Teso: Absolutely.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Thank you.

ITEM #12 – DISCUSSION REGARDING SETTING DATE AND TIME FOR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Mr. Vidaurri: Mr. Mayor, members of the Council, the thought for having a session like this, you might want to call it a Council retreat, actually came from our Vice-Mayor, Vice-Mayor Lopez. So, I thought, hey, it’s a great idea to sit down and for the Council to look at the past 12 months and look at what has been accomplished and look at what hasn’t been accomplished during that period, talk about maybe Council looking at setting some goals and objectives for the next 12 month period, and having you all prioritize those goals and
objectives. And that might be a good foundation for moving forward this current year of 2020. And so whatever you all decide you would like to do, date, time, place. It doesn’t necessarily have to be here. It could be in a meeting room at one of the restaurants. It will be posted like a Council meeting, but it would be more of a private, not private, but a session held in public at a privately-owned location. Or you could do it here, it’s up to you all.

Councilwoman Rogers: Okay. Mr. Mayor, I just have a couple of comments quickly. The most important thing is I think it’s important to have this. I have various constituents who want to be here to say what they think of their City and what they’d like to see the Council they elected do, etcetera, so it’s open meeting. But the most thing is that if we ever get it settled it would be great, is the time and date way ahead so they all can also attend. But just to let you know, last time in the minutes, I told you January 15th I was on Jury Duty. I’m now on Jury Duty January 28th, so just remember that I would like to be at this particular meeting.

Acting Mayor Diaz: I prefer not having it here at the, you know, this courtroom. I think a, more or less, a kind of a round table place where we can talk, but nobody is really in a driver’s chair, particular place that we’re at. And also, I kind of would like, more or less, a, I guess a, direction from, from you in regards to, I know that you’ve been meeting a lot and you kind of have a direction for the City. And some of those plans are discussed with some of the Council people, but we need to have at least some kind of communication, either with one Council person or, because by the time we get to here, you already have a majority. Pretty much. But anyway, that, that’s, that’s what should, the discussion be. The other thing is the fact that it’s gonna be kind of a, a study session that really doesn’t put anything on the agenda, or, or we can’t be making agenda items at that point, I believe. But in order for us to have some kind of view of, of the future of the City. I’d like to have, you know, some of those, what do they call those plans? Help me out. Those plans. I forget what, the right name for them, but the list of stuff that we needed to do.

Mayor Teso: Strategic plans?

Acting Mayor Diaz: What?

Mayor Teso: A strategic plan?

Councilwoman Rogers: Yeah, strategy.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Yeah, strategic plans. Those, I know that we got ‘em before. There’s two of them. But I’d like to either have those before the discussions and stuff like that, so we can remember what kind of the history, at least, of some of the issues. So, that’s my input.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, Mr. Manager, can I explain to the Council, more or less, what’s, what our session was about since I’m (inaudible), so I give ‘em that peace of mind and, well, it starts out with, with a self-introduction of each one of you and for the reason is because I really don’t know any of you. You all have your own personal lives. You’ve got your own things to do. You made your own promises that got you elected, or not. But either way, it’s just a self-introduction of who we are. Part one. And then from there, we go onto where I wrote things that we’ve accomplished together as a Council. We’ve done a lot of things together within this year. The most important one is winning the lawsuits that we took it upon ourselves to
fight ‘em. And the good Lord was on our side and we were able to win. But the other thing is just being able to express and think of where we want to take the City for the next ten years. Just like we’re doing the Census, we gotta at least try to plan at least five to ten years ahead of ourselves so that for those that run this year for re-election, we have a plan to where we can shoot forward in the future with this plan, modify it as we continue with a new Council coming in, as they get integrated into the programs here to where it would be easy for them to catch on as to what we’re doing. And then also, they will be coming in with their own plans and their ideas that will be incorporated into this big old master plan to where by the end of our session, we should have seven separate plans from each single Council person. And then from there, we prioritize it. We move onto where what we want to accomplish and then end of discussion. It’s all black and white and then we move on, and hopefully move it forward. Is there any questions?

(No questions from the Council)

Mayor Teso: I think we’ll need some documentation. I mean basically, in terms of like we’re saying, you know, we want to see what we’ve done in the past year. You know, that kind of a thing. You know, so we can have a reference point as to.

Mr. Vidaurri: Mr. Mayor, I believe you provided me with a list of items that the Council wanted to look at initially after I was hired.

Mayor Teso: Right.

Mr. Vidaurri: We can use that as a starting point and look at what’s been done with respect to those items. And then as our Vice-Mayor indicated, then look at future planning.

Mayor Teso: Right.

Mr. Vidaurri: We’ve done these things, or we haven’t done these. Why not?

Mayor Teso: Right.

Mr. Vidaurri: And then go ahead and, and then on the future planning side, talk about what it is you’d like to see over the next 12 month period, over the next 5 year period, whatever planning phases you all want to set.

Mayor Teso: Right.

Mr. Vidaurri: Understanding that these are elected positions and then hopefully, you will leave some future plans that future elected officials can look at as well and say, hey, this is a good idea. Let’s keep it going.

Mayor Teso: Right. I think, I mean just for the, the portion of planning for this study session, you know, we need to have that, you know, kind of information, just brief summary of where we’re at, where we came from. Also, we have to look at some of these issues in terms of, you know, we, as a Council, didn’t do it all. It was previous Councils that started some of these issues and we ended up where we’re at because we continued to follow suggestions by our staff regarding financial situations and conditions that we were able to follow
through on that and find ourselves in, what I think is a considerably better situation than we were say two years ago. You know, something along those lines. But, you know, something we can, you know, some, a timeline type of a document, perhaps, you know, that might, might help us, you know, take a look and see where we’re at. We have the strategic plans, strategic plan. The ancient strategic plan that started back in 2005, I think. Yeah, 2005? And has been updated in 2009 and got updated again in 2015, and basically, very little got done, if anything. And yet, I think, we’ve been, to some extent, trying to address those again, the strategic plan goals and, and look at that. But, you know, I mean, you know, it’s a fairly hefty document, you know, 130 pages. You know, I think maybe get a summary of just what the goals were in that particular plan, you know, to see where we’re at on those. And once we get that documentation together, then we can come back and set a date and time to do, you know, to look at the, well, to look for a date and time for the study session itself.

Councilman Oyegbola: Mr. Mayor, ...

Mayor Teso: But ...

Councilman Oyegbola: Oh, sorry.

Mayor Teso: Go ahead.

Councilman Oyegbola: I thought you were ...

Mayor Teso: No, no, I’m ...

Councilman Oyegbola: ... (inaudible). I think, for me, for what the Vice-Mayor brought up as far as going back too far, ‘cause I know when we first started, we passed out (inaudible) strategic plans and then, correct me if I’m wrong, but the last month, or the month prior, you passed out all of the future agenda items that was requested by Council member Rogers. So that was there. So I’m thinking that the Vice-Mayor is, is not trying to go too deep, or maybe he is. I’m not sure, but he wanted to get to know us, get to know what we’ve done for the last year, and then just get a, I guess a synopsis or some type of road map for each individual Council member on what they plan on doing for the City of South Tucson. Each of us representing, we’re all representatives of the community, so I think the Vice-Mayor wants to see pretty much what we, I guess, on what, what have you been doing for the City, and what do you plan on doing for the, for the residents of the City. And from there, I guess we can, we can choose to go where, wherever the, the Vice-Mayor, direction (inaudible).

Mayor Teso: Right.

Councilman Oyegbola: If, if that’s what you were trying, I’m not even sure.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: You’re right on target.

Mr. Vidaurri: If I may interject, Mr. Mayor, members of the Council. I think that that really is right on point. We can look at the 2009 Strategic Plan for Economic Development, but that was how many years ago? And
nobody ever looked at it 18, 17, 16, 15, 14 years ago and attempted to do anything with it. So what’s the use of going back to that old plan and saying, well, this hasn’t been done. This should be an opportunity to, for Council to introduce their new ideas, to say this is what we think the City needs to do strategically. And then staff would then bear the responsibility of, of implementing the Council’s new plan. There’s been talk about code enforcement, beautification. There are a lot of issues that we’ve discussed in the last 10 or 11 months. We’re attempting, with the resources we have, that we have, to address those issues. But I think this requires a lot more discussion and input from Council so that we can look at what sort of resources we have to address those needs, and then Council can prioritize what it is they would like to see done with those resources that we have available.

Councilman Oyegbola: Mr. Mayor (inaudible) quick comment to, I’m not sure if, of how, again, the, the Vice-Mayor was envisioning this, but I know, no disrespect to any of the Council members, but I know you want the, you want to have some residents there and, and things, but I say that the policy lies with the City. I think we need also a time to ourselves to think on what we want to do before we get influence, or before we get input from others. You can, we can have another meeting like that, but we definitely need something of our own to be able to, you know, brainstorm and think without any interruption.

Mr. Vidaurri: Mr. Mayor, I think that’s …

Councilman Oyegbola: If that’s …

Mr. Vidaurri: … a good point …

Councilman Oyegbola: … possible.

Mr. Vidaurri: … that Councilman Oyegbola has made that before the meeting you all go out, reach out to your constituents and say, hey, what is it that you want for the City of South Tucson? And bring that to the discussion. And let you all set the policy.

Councilwoman Rogers: Mr. Mayor, …

Mayor Teso: Well, (inaudible) …

Councilwoman Rogers: … I’m strongly against that. The people are the people and they, it’s an open meeting and I want to hear from the people. I want to hear from the people. Don’t be so afraid of hearing from the people. Just, it needs to be the people. They’re gonna, the primary is coming up in August. You gotta quit making, being afraid of the people.

Mr. Vidaurri: Mr. Mayor, I think that’s a good point that Councilwoman Rogers brings. But they’re going to, you’re going to go out to the people, to your constituents and through you, …

Councilwoman Rogers: I do it all the time.
Mr. Vidaurri: ... you will present those ideas at the work session. Not with a bunch of people here, but through you as individuals. That is your, I think, most, the best way to handle it. You could tell your constituents that you listen to them, and that in this discussion you brought their concerns to the Council’s attention.

Acting Mayor Diaz: I nominate Café Santa Rosa.

(Laughter)

Councilman Oyegbola: Second.

(Laughter)

Vice-Mayor Lopez: You got it.

Mayor Teso: Let’s get to the point here.

(Laughter)

(Simultaneous conversation)

Councilwoman Rogers: Okay. So, but tonight ...

Vice-Mayor Lopez: I second.

Councilwoman Rogers: ... isn’t the Study Session.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: I second.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Is that it for discussion?

(Simultaneous conversation)

Councilman Oyegbola: Mr. Mayor, are we gonna choose, I know it’s up to us, but are we gonna choose ...

Mayor Teso: Right.

Councilman Oyegbola: ... a Council day? Are we gonna choose a weekend? Are we gonna choose during the day? What is best for everybody?

Councilwoman Rogers: Mr. Mayor, for my input on that, I can come 24 hours a day, seven days a week, but a lot of people have set aside Tuesday, whether we’re gonna have a Special Meeting or night, so they kind of know about Tuesdays, but whatever everybody else thinks.
Councilman Romero: I’d say in the afternoon after work. Some people have to work.

Councilwoman Rogers: Yeah.

Mayor Teso: Yeah.

Councilwoman Rogers: Yes.

Councilman Romero: Set it up on, on, but Tuesday, either second, ...

Councilwoman Rogers: Yeah.

Councilman Romero: ... third Tuesday when we ...

Councilwoman Rogers: (Inaudible).

Councilman Romero: ... have a Council meeting. Cancel the Council meeting and just hold a Study Session over there, whatever we’re gonna do.

Councilwoman Rogers: Yeah.

Councilman Oyegbola: That sounds good.

Councilman Romero: That way all of us can attend.

Councilwoman Rogers: Yeah.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: But a meal, huh?

(Laughter)

Mayor Teso: Okay. So we got a Tuesday. Which Tuesday?

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Eighteenth?

Councilwoman Rogers: No, not the 28th. I’ll be at Jury Duty.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: No, the 18th.

Mr. Vidaurri: February the 18th.

Councilwoman Rogers: Sounds good.

Councilman Romero: Sounds good to me.
Mr. Vidaurri: That would be the second Council meeting in February.

Councilwoman Rogers: Okay.

Mr. Vidaurri: Okay.

Mayor Teso: Sounds good to me, too.

Councilman Romero: All I want is the shrimp (inaudible).

(Simultaneous conversation)

Acting Mayor Diaz: Mr. Mayor, since, as far as the, I’d like to include on the agenda item the program that is presented before us to be brought before the Council for discussion and action.

Mr. Vidaurri: The pre-school?

Acting Mayor Diaz: Right.

Councilwoman Rogers: Yes. I got a number nine.

Mayor Teso: Okay. So we got February the 18th.

Mr. Vidaurri: 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Teso: And we got a site?

Unknown: Santa Rosa.

Mayor Teso: Do we have a site?

Councilman Oyegbola: Santa Rosa. Let me, I’d like to make a (inaudible) any questions. Since we’re going to Café Santa Rosa, and they’ve got those (inaudible) burgers.

(Laughter)

Councilman Oyegbola: We’re good with Café Santa Rosa.

Mayor Teso: Okay.

(Simultaneous conversation)

Mayor Teso: Okay. We’ve got a date.
Vice-Mayor Lopez: The 18th.

Councilwoman Rogers: February 18th, I think.

Mayor Teso: Six o’clock?

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Six o’clock.

Councilwoman Rogers: Yeah, that’s good.

Mr. Vidaurre: February 18th, 6 o’clock, Café Santa Rosa.

Councilman Oyegbola: Café Santa Rosa.

Mayor Teso: We got it all.

Councilwoman Rogers: Yeah.

Mayor Teso: Alright.

Councilman Oyegbola: Oh, before we adjourn, Mr. Mayor, just commenting on the, on the, what was said earlier. Definitely not afraid of the people of South Tucson. Being here, you know, when you’re elected official, you gotta make decisions, right? Hard, tough decisions. You gotta make decisions. Sometimes, you make decisions as, as policy-makers away from the crowd and not inside of the crowd. So, you’re definitely here because you speak for the residents, so, on a daily basis, whether we see them at Circle K, or at Food City, or by survey, or whatever we take into account, all of the residents and the businesses input.

Councilwoman Rogers: Okay.

Councilman Oyegbola: So, we want, we want people to know that we’re always taking into account the residents, but just because they’re not sitting in front of us, doesn’t mean we don’t take that into account, because that’s what elected officials do.

Councilwoman Rogers: So, Mr. Mayor, I don’t think that was on the agenda at all, but I, since it was stated, I think it should be known that there’s a great, great stake on the people who voted for the tax increase. And every single person remembers who it was. And it was a 4-3 vote. And one person who voted for it to pass, made it pass, happened not to be here the night the 20 or 30 businesses asked to stop it. So, let’s quit saying we’re not afraid of the people. This is not an agenda item. The truth is the people spoke and it came out differently.

Councilman Oyegbola: No, that’s what you call a democracy.

Acting Mayor Diaz: And thank you for attending our meeting.
Mayor Teso: Okay. If that’s, we got everything set on Item #12, we’ll move onto Item #13.

ITEM #13 – ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Mayor Lopez: I make a motion to adjourn.

Councilman Oyegbola: Second.

Mayor Teso: Any discussion?

(No discussion by the Council)

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

_______________________________________
Mayor

ATTEST:

______________________________
Veronica Moreno, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION
Minutes presented in verbatim format from recorded audio.

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 21st 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