Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, held Tuesday, February 4, 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
Lourdes Aguirre, Finance Director
Manny Amado, Public Safety Director
Angel Lopez, Public Works Director
Bobby Yu, City Attorney
Marilyn Chico, Housing Director
Andy Luna, Fire Captain

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

Others: Dennis Melin, Public Partnership
Brian Flagg, Casa Maria
Dennis Luttrell, Resident

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 the 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 talking today? Please come up.
Mr. Melin: Hello, again. I’m Dennis Melin, CPA, and thanks again for the opportunity to implement our Arizona Tax Free Money Program in the City of South Tucson. Let me tell you what I’ve done last month. City municipal offices, I got approval to put up a small version of this in the window. This, we’re putting around in a number of businesses in Tucson, basically, that tell people that we’re here to help Arizonans get money from the State of Arizona. This will take you to all of the forms that we have. And this, if you want to donate, click on that and you can donate. It’s very simple. We help people fill out some very little-known forms. Arizona government is keeping it a secret and we know. Housing Authority, I sent an email to the Chief Executive, Executive Director, and haven’t received a reply. I’ll send you, I’ll give you a copy of my, my letter. I’m also still waiting for the list of current business licenses and as soon as we get those, we’ll be calling businesses. We have put this in a number of businesses in town, and we’ve offered to do their income taxes for free, provided they will make an Arizona Tax Credit donation to Public Partnership. The purpose being that we need money to do all the work that we’re doing. Also, I sent a letter to Borderland Construction, the largest employer here in town, looking to meet with the Human Resource Department to tell them what we do, what we’re doing for the City of Tucson and say, since you’re the largest employer in town, we’d like you to assist us to help southern Tucson. And finally, very quickly, what can the Mayor and the Council, and Manager, and the Attorney do for us? Well, I would like to extend the offer that we’ll do your tax returns for free. We want to help you get the Arizona Tax Credits that can help you help your community. Also, we’re asking each of you to make an Arizona Tax Credit donation to Public Partnership in order to help Arizonans in need, specifically here in the City of South Tucson. And, very briefly, that’s it. Again, we’re looking for Arizona Tax Credit donations. You do not, it does not cost you any money. You get that taken off your Arizona Tax Return, and it’s a dollar for dollar credit against the donations that you make to a qualified charitable organization. Thank you. Any questions? I’ll be available.

Mayor Teso: Okay.

Council: Thank you.

Mayor Teso: Do we have any other speakers? Please come up.

Mr. Flagg: Hey, Mayor, Council, and all the workers. Brian Flagg, Casa Maria. Like I’ve lived here for 37 years, right over there at Casa Maria. And I know that that’s like virtually nothing compared to many of you, Council. So, as a newcomer, I hope you don’t mind me making these points. Myself, and people at Casa Maria, and a lot of other people in this community are concerned about the, the changes that are happening. And especially, the changes that are inflicted on us by the gentrification that’s moved south out of downtown. And so, you know, we don’t want to see changes negative. We don’t want to see changes that are gonna benefit rich people at the expense of people who don’t have money here in our community. So, we’re not gonna sit there and cry about it, or only mouth off about it. We’re gonna do something about it. We’re gonna organize and, so hopefully, we’re on the same page; South Tucson Council, Casa Maria, the community, the Pima County Board of Supervisors. ‘Cause they, they, basically, told you to do five meetings. Remember there’s gonna be a GPLET and, done in South Tucson, so our group, we talked and we said, well, why don’t we make two of these things we’re doing, posted, you know, for the City Council so you don’t, so you can all come and don’t violate open meeting laws. So, I talked to John, the City Manager, Vidaurri, and he goes, yes, sounds good. So I want to invite you to something that we’re gonna do. It’s on Sunday the 16th, right out here in
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front of City Hall. And we’re gonna have a party. We’re gonna have food, we’re gonna have music, we’re gonna have folklorico from Ochoa School. And we’re gonna have like ten or eleven groups in South Tucson that are gonna come out, say this is who we are, and we want to be part of positive changes that happen in South Tucson. So, it’s gonna be a party. We’re gonna have a good time. Father Steve from Santa Cruz is gonna open it up with a, with a prayer. We’re hoping that, that the current Mayor, Bob, can come and, and, and welcome the crowd and the former Mayor, Mayor Eckstrom, said he would come and welcome the crowd. So, we’re gonna do this and what we’re gonna announce at this is, is that we are not gonna sit here. We’re gonna do solutions. We’re gonna put forward solutions. And the solution, number one, is that people in the community educate themselves about this stuff. And so, the, the point of this party is to invite people to another meeting on March 1st, Sunday, March 1st at 2:00 p.m. Just like this is 2:00 p.m., at Capilla Guadalupe. And we’re gonna have Pam Powers Hannley, the State Rep, who’s an expert on GPLET’s and I guess the nice word for it’s tax incentives. She’s, she’s angry about what’s going on with the State regarding this. She’s an expert. She’s really good. Pam Powers Hannley is gonna speak. Also, there’s a guy named Mike, Mike Peel, he’s the head of this group called Tucson Local First. And they’ve done a Community Benefit Agreement up on north 4th Avenue. And what that means is when developers are gonna get a GPLET, or something like that, the community can, can rise up and say, wait a minute. What are you gonna do for us? And so, you know, we get something back; be it housing, be it jobs for South Tucsonans, be it bus passes for everybody in South Tucson, whatever. So Mike’s done the Community Benefit Agreement. He’s gonna come. We’re also working with AEA, Arizona Education Association, because when, when all these taxes don’t go, they go into rich guys’ pockets, not every single time, but most of the time they go into rich guys’ pockets at the expense of tax money to the State. And first and foremost, the most important thing with the State is public education. The public education of our youth in places like South Tucson, especially. So, we’re gonna try to get AEA to come and talk about that. That’s where the money is going when, when you do GPLETs. In South Tu-, and Tucson’s like a textbook case for the wrong way it’s been done and we hope that we can do better here in South Tucson. So, please come on the, on the 16th. You don’t have to worry about the open meeting law ‘cause John and us are on the ball on that. And put March 1st, we’re gonna invite everybody to March 1st. So, I think that’s about it. Thank you very much.

Mayor and Council: Thank you.

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

Mr. Luttrell: Good evening, Mayor and Council. Dennis Luttrell, resident, South Tucson. A couple of meetings ago, there was an interest, I understand, to have a special get-together meeting on the 18th for study session. And what I’d like to, what I’d like to make sure is that it’s open to the public, that it’s open to the public, the study session, and that it be a, a public study session so that the public can provide input. And so I just hope that we can clarify that. And that’s it. Thank you for your time.

Mayor Teso: Are there any other speakers?

(No other speakers from the audience)

Mayor Teso: Okay. Thank you. No other speakers are available.
ITEM #06 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES: NONE AVAILABLE

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

Councilwoman Rogers: Mr. Mayor, I just want to report an event that took place on Saturday, and I want everybody to know about it because I was the only, happened to be the only one there of seven because I think six of you, perhaps, did not know about it. So, at any rate, it was all, but I know that Denise gave a permit for the event so it was just very, very, very wonderful. It was 100%, I did not understand one sentence for three hours because it was all in Spanish. So, it was great. The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce was there. All the dancers, with all the flowers in the world, free hamburgers, free hot dogs, etcetera, all put on by people like me, whatever I am, not so Hispanic. They did their grand opening of, re-doing the grand opening of 4th Avenue, the plastics, our source company. So the, Laurie and Ken, who are the owners, they did that. Every year, they’re going to redo, re-opening of their, they’ve done well. They said the first year, and they’re gonna reopen. And it was from 1:00 to 4:00 but people were there way past 4:00. And it was all being filmed for a movie so you might see us, two people that weren’t Hispanic there. But the Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, etcetera, was there. So that’s my report. And perhaps the City Manager would be able, if there’s something like that that goes to your person, like Denise, permit person, maybe slide something in our box. ‘Cause I just live so close to them that I happened to be maybe getting my packet at City Hall and went there from 1:00 to 4:00 instead. But you all didn’t get it. So that’s my report. It was …

Councilman Romero: If you make it, …

Councilwoman Rogers: … really good.

Councilman Romero: … if you make it in the movie, can I have your autograph?

Councilwoman Rogers: Yeah. Yeah.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, I’d like to report that on February 13th, the San Antonio Neighborhood Watch Association is gonna have their meeting at 6:00 p.m. It’s gonna be either at the House of Neighborly Service or at the Primavera Foundation.

Councilwoman Rogers: Six o’clock?

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Six o’clock. And then on the, February 14th, there’s a meeting called “Stop It”, at the library at 9 o’clock. So that’s, that’s all I have.

Councilwoman Rogers: Nine o’clock in the morning?

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Mm hm.

Mayor Teso: Do we have any other reports?
Councilman Romero: Not so much a report, but can we have a clarification on Mr. Luttrell? The, it’s gonna be anybody to come in there and talk, it’s a open study session?

Mr. Vidaurri: Mr. Mayor, Councilman Romero, it has to be a public meeting, publicly posted, available for the public to attend.

Councilman Romero: Okay.

Mr. Vidaurri: By state statute.

Acting Mayor Diaz: But I think it was the, more or less, a request for a Call to the Audience in that session.

Mr. Vidaurri: There can be a Call to the Audience in that session.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Yeah, that (inaudible) referring to.

Mr. Vidaurri: Right.

Councilman Romero: Okay, thank you.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Mr. Mayor, I attended the Homeless Coalition meeting with a Chair by Council member Richard Fimbres. And what was surprising is that Mayor Regina Romero took the opportunity to address the Coalition. And it was very interesting and her comments. And they did have a retreat by themselves and the City was, each, each person in the, each Council member was asked to provide input as to their priorities. And then, they put together the whole priority for the City of Tucson and I’d like to share that with you. It’s Climate Action, Recyclist, Sustainability, Housing, History, Homeless, Green Transportation, Green Infrastructure, Parks and Trees, Children and Youth, Economic Development and Training, and these are categorized. So, Poverty, Crime and Public Safety, IT and Cyber Security, and Equity. And so, she did address the, the Coalition there, but it was the, the actual meeting, after a while, was just reporting, the members of the Coalition reported what they had done, but not necessarily what they were going to do. So it was kind of a, more or less, a get together to, you know, sharing information. And I also attended the Rodeo Parade out there at the Tohono O’odham in Sells. Chairman Ned Norris led the parade and I had my (inaudible) out there so South Tucson was (inaudible) through there, two mile long, and there was quite a few people there, so it was kind of exciting to be there. And, thank you, that’s all I have.

Mayor Teso: Okay. Do we have any other reports? (No other reports from the Council)

Mayor Teso: Do we have any future agenda items to discuss?

Councilwoman Rogers: Mr. Mayor, I just keep reminding that I’m, the Council is still waiting for the results of the 1500 surveys, went out.
Mayor Teso: The which?

Councilwoman Rogers: The surveys that the interns did.

Mayor Teso: Oh.

Councilwoman Rogers: We have no, nothing back, no impact.

Vice-Meyer Lopez: No (inaudible).

Mayor Teso: Do we have any other 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, a meeting was held with Chicanos Por La Causa recently to discuss their interest in participating in a City of South Tucson Affordable Housing Program. The City currently owns three small parcels of land that are suitable for housing development. We will need authorization from the City Council in order to pursue placing those parcels out for bid. So this is something that’s most likely going to come back to you, if you decide that you think you would like to engage in an affordable housing program for the development of these particular parcels of land. They’re located at 148 West 36th, 35 West 32nd, and 1650 South 10th Avenue. We met with Hector Reyes from Senator Sinema’s office recently, as well. They’ve offered to support the City in whatever way we feel we need support at the federal level, and we discussed ways in which the Senator’s office might be of assistance to the City of South Tucson. Staff met with the Arizona Rangers yesterday to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding, detailing the level of support, policies and procedures to be adhered to when supporting the efforts of the City of South Tucson Police Department. So, we expect that the Memorandum will be ready to be presented to City Council on March the 3rd for City Council consideration. We attended Congresswoman Kirkpatrick’s Economic Development meeting; the Mayor, the Acting Mayor, and myself, recently as well, and there was some discussion about the procedures to go through in order to apply for federal funding for projects, local projects, and to discuss some of the local projects that some of the cities in Arizona are considering, particularly on the border as it relates to border crossings and infrastructure improvements. The Tucson Homeless Coalition met, as Acting Mayor Diaz alluded to a little earlier. Chief Amado was also present to represent our City staff at that meeting. And on February the 11th, we’re going to have representatives from our sister city, Rocky Point, visiting South Tucson PD to make a presentation and discuss law enforcement. And that concludes my report, Mr. Mayor, members of the Council. We also have a report from Fire Department through Chief Amado.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Mr. Mayor, may I, I have some questions for Mr., the City Manager. In regards to the, those lots, my understanding was that, at least at the City of Tucson has offered little houses and container houses and all these other different types of housing, and these lots are apparently R-1. Is there any way that
we can check to see if we can get R-2 in there and have, you know, more for the price, or whatever they’re gonna do. You know, that was my suggestion to them.

Mr. Vidaurri: Mr. Mayor, Mr. Acting Mayor, I think what we can do at the point that we put together a Request for Proposals from interested bidders on acquiring the land, we can specify in that proposal those parameters. And so as the bidders are bidding, those items could be considered by City Council, prior to consideration of award.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Mr. Vidaurri: Chief Amado.

Chief Amado: Mr. Mayor, members of the Council, as you may or may not be aware, there’s been a few more fires since the last time Council met. So, rather than speak to it myself, I’m gonna ask Captain Luna from the Fire Department to come up and give a briefing on it as well, just kind of discuss fire operations. Captain.

Capt. Luna: Thank you, Chief. Mr. Mayor, members of the Council, as the Chief stated, since we last met, since I was last up here, we’ve had three more fires in our neighborhood, and a couple of medical calls that I want to kind of just touch base with you as well. The first fire came out, 32nd Street, and that fire there, first of all, let me back up. TFD, as we know, responds to structure fires, building fires, and that’s it. They don’t respond to brush fires, car fires, any other fires other than actual buildings. So, the first fire that came out, it came out as a structure fire, so everybody, TFD, we all came out. We ended up putting out the fire before they laid all their hose and all those crews came out, so that was a good thing. They were happy about that. We took, took care of it ourselves. The second fire, however, both units, TFD and South Tucson, responded and with this now, there was an injury on this, on this fire, to, to one of our guys. Now, although it was a minor injury and nobody got transported to the hospital, it was still an injury. So, what we do on all fires is we do what’s called a post-incident review. We come back to the station. We go over the fire; what do we do, what could we do better, anything that we needed, those types of things. So, with this, the fourth man always comes up in, in these post-incident reviews. And we all agreed, at the end of discussing this entire fire, that if we had a fourth man, this injury would not have occurred. And that’s what the conclusion we come up to. And I have the, the fire fighter that, that was injured, he’s writing me up a report as we speak, as to the incident report off of what happened, just for documentation purposes, he’ll send to me. If anyone would like to see it, I’d be more than happy to show it to you at that time. The third fire happened to be a brush fire. Now TFD does not respond to brush fires, as I mentioned. So what occurred there is we were already on a medical call. And we can’t leave a medical call unless the transport unit is already there because it’s, by law, an abandonment issue. We can’t do that. So, once this fire came out, we were stuck at this, at, at a medical call. And luckily enough, we were able to get away. The ambulance company came and we ended up leaving and putting out the brush fire with no incident, no houses, no structures were on fire. And I bring that up to say that we have a lot of EMS calls. If you remember, we average about 2,000 calls a year; 89% are all medical calls, is what we do, what we deal with. Now, in a brush fire incident, again, bringing up the fourth man, if we would have had a fourth man on certain calls, and that was one of them, specifically, we would be able to leave, if it was not a life-threatening emergency, one individual, which would be the fourth man on that scene to take care of that patient as the rest of the crew went to fires. In my experience here in South Tucson, I’ve got to many brush fires where time is, all the fires of, of, of, of an essence here, and we need to
get there fast. And I’ve gone to fires what started out as brush fires and the house started on fire because we, you know, whether time, time permitting, the fire spreads, obviously, it’s gonna go to a structure. And that’s happened a lot where we got there and if we would’ve, five minutes later, the whole house would’ve been on fire. So, again, we determined that the fourth man would’ve been very beneficial for calls like that. And another, another thing on the, on our ambulance company, our EMR it’s called, or Rescue, or ambulance, the people who transport our patients. Now we usually get there between three to five minutes on every call. Like we’re there instantly, no matter what kind of call it is. So, we initiate care immediately. So, we had, we’ve had calls, I’ve been on many calls to where it’s been a, a cardiac arrest, which is a heart attack, where something needed to be done right away. So, we start initiating our CPR, whatever we need to do. Now these transport units, they come from all over the city. Some are close to us, some are far. Depending on how busy they are, they could be far, and that’s happened plenty of times. It’s documented in our, in our bank, our data bank. So, what happens is sometimes the time, the time span of when the ambulance companies get there, it could be anywhere between 5 to 30 minutes. And that’s happened before where we’ve been performing CPR for 15 minutes before the actual unit gets to that scene. So, let’s say there was no Fire Department. There’s no Fire Department, that, those individuals would be waiting between 5 and 30 minutes for the first available unit to show up to even initiate any kind of CPR. So, within that, on the medical side of what we do, which is the majority of it, it’s very important to have the fourth man in there. And in closing, today, just today, we had a call and this individual was, we believe, on some kind of narcotic. So he was, it was on 29th Street and we pretty much, it was a big scene there. And the three of us fire fighters were there. And he’s pretty hyped up and he’s all over the place and we’re trying to control him. Now if it wasn’t for our officers showing up, we would’ve had an issue. So, just with one more person, at least then we could hold each limb, as opposed to try and control all over the place and things are flying, all his limbs are flying. So, thank goodness Officer Pike showed up and he helped us. So without him, he was basically our fourth man. Without him, I think there would have been an issue of somebody getting kicked, or hit, or bit, or punched. So, again, discussing that, again. So, that’s it, my report. Any questions on anything?

(No questions from the Council)

Capt. Luna: No? Okay. That, that’s my report and I’ll, I’ll see you soon.

Mayor Teso: Thank you.

Capt. Luna: Thank you for your time.

Chief Amado: Mr. Mayor, members of the Council, there is just one more item. Today, on that note, everyone of the police officers, including the ones that are reassigned to military duty here locally, came in for a four-hour block of instruction on what to do as a first responder on a fire scene. Now, not of course necessarily what fire fighters do, but what would be done if it was, by chance, criminal activity and arson. And the block of instruction was presented by the Tucson Police Department Forensics Unit. They sent one of their Forensics Investigators out, a civilian that actually does ...

(Coughing in background)
Chief Amado: ... (inaudible) evidence, DNA, kind of like what you see on TV, like a CSI Unit, and taught our officers, or instructed our officers on what to do. But just as importantly, what not to do so as not to compromise evidence at the scene that may point to a particular crime or person. Now with that said, we had a little bit of a discussion with, or I did with the presenter, as I’ve had with the Sheriff’s Department. They have a policy, the Tucson Police Department, as does the Pima County Sheriff’s Department, that they will not come out to just an abandoned structure fire without some kind of injury, serious injury, or a, a dollar amount, okay? And I don’t remember exactly what the dollar amount is. It has to go into what is basically a felony. Now, what the Captain was talking about, and this is something that we, I, I need to readdress with Tucson Police Dispatch, we really, the Police Department should be called out on every fire that they go to. Now the reason for that is two-fold; one, if there is a potential of criminal activity, then we need to be able to call out our Detective for that. The other is that in order for us to utilize the resources of another agency, and lately we’ve been using the Pima County Sheriff’s Department quite a bit since they do back us up since we are in the County. The only way that they will come out is if the request comes from the Police Department. That is from their Captain. That is from their Sergeant. That is from their Chief Deputy. That is a Pima Sheriff’s Department policy. So, we have to be the ones, in other words, Capt. Luna needs to say, you know, “This, this might be arson, or this might be something other than just a, you know, homeless person camping out here. This might be intentional, or malicious, or deliberate.” And we need to be the ones to make the call, so I am working with the Tucson Police Department Dispatch area. They tend to do it, and then they kind of, I don’t know if they have a change in staffing and then they kind of fall of the map, so we need to readdress that again. But the key on that was our officers also getting the training as first response to, to fires. Thank you.

Mayor Teso: Also, I saw on the newspaper today that Operation Stone Garden had been rejected by the County.

Chief Amado: Yes.

Mayor Teso: Do you have any ...

Chief Amado: Well, we still ...

Mayor Teso: ... response (inaudible).

Chief Amado: ... have funds in that. And our funds, we have approximately $28,000 that is good till the end of this year, so December 31st of this year. So, it’s not really an issue for us. We don’t really have the staffing to work a lot of Stone Garden Operations. And, you know, you hear about the payment to the retirement and the overtime. Most of our overtime, as the Finance Director can attest to, goes to overtime in covering shifts.

Mayor Teso: Right.

Chief Amado: Many of our officers are getting maxed out on vacation time. They’re, it’s difficult to take vacation when you’ve only got one person out on the street. The Commander and I try to assist as much as we can. But, you know, when two people get sick, and people get sick, and it’s just the way it has to happen. But the Stone Garden Operation, that money has already been encumbered, has never been earmarked, so
whatever the County decides on, doesn’t affect us. So we’re still able to utilize that for, let’s say surveillance operations on a potential drug house, or additional type of patrol operations out there.

Mayor Teso: Okay. Thank you. Anybody else have anything for the Chief?

Councilwoman Romero: (Inaudible) for you.

Chief Amado: Yes, ma’am.

Councilwoman Romero: I want you to enforce the handicap parking. The person that parks there never has the, a handicap, and we have to walk farther because that handicap is, somebody is there with no handicap.

Chief Amado: Councilwoman, are you talking about here at City Hall?

Councilwoman Romero: Right there in the back.

Chief Amado: Okay. Thank you.

Councilwoman Romero: Maybe if you give a, a fine, they will understand because I don’t think they know how to read.

Chief Amado: I understand.

Mayor Teso: Thank you, Chief.

ITEM #09 – ORDINANCE NO. 20-01 OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA, RELATING TO ADMINISTRATION; APPROVING AND ADOPTING AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 2 (“ADMINISTRATION”), SECTION 2-33 (“VOTING”) OF THE SOUTH TUCSON CITY CODE TO INCLUDE LANGUAGE RELATING TO THE PARAMETERS OF AN ABSTENTION AND THE LEGAL EFFECT OF AN ABSTENTION

Acting Mayor Diaz: Mr. Mayor, I move to table.

Councilwoman Rogers: Second.

Mayor Teso: Any discussion?

Councilwoman Rogers: No discussion on a table.

Mayor Teso: Okay. Do we vote?

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Yep.

Mayor Teso: Okay.
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Mayor Teso: Mr. Oyegbola.
Councilman Oyegbola: Aye.
Mayor Teso: Mr. Romero.
Councilman Romero: Table.
Mayor Teso: Mr. Diaz.
Acting Mayor Diaz: Table.
Mayor Teso: Ms. Romero.
Councilwoman Romero: Table.
Mayor Teso: Ms. Rogers.
Councilwoman Rogers: Table.
Mayor Teso: Mr. Lopez.
Vice-Mayor Lopez: Go ahead.
Mayor Teso: Table, I guess.

ITEM #10 – RESOLUTION NO. 20-04 OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 2705 REGARDING ABSENTEE LANDLORDS OF VACANT AND ABANDONED BUILDINGS; AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION BY THE MAYOR OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Mr. Vidaurri: Mr. Mayor, members of the City Council, the objective of this legislation is to provide an additional tool for cities and towns to encourage absentee landlords to maintain or develop their buildings and property. While there is an existing abatement process outlined in State statute, it’s not always feasible for smaller communities to utilize this mechanism and when used, it rarely results in the absentee landlord placing the property back into productive use. Small cities and towns would benefit from legislative authority to adopt new tools to accelerate economic development, maintain vibrant communities, and be open for business and new economic opportunities. Over 300 cities and towns across the nation have adopted similar models, and the proposed legislation adopts the best possible practices used in these cities and towns across the country to accomplish the following things: Number one, allow yearly inspections of vacant and abandoned buildings to ensure the building is not a threat to public safety or to first responders entering the building in an emergency. Number two, maintain a registry of properties with contact information so law enforcement has direct contact with owners or their agent, if there is an emergency. Item number three, assess fees that may be escalated each year to properties vacant or abandoned to encourage absentee landlords to fix and place their properties into productive use. Properties free of code violations and listed for sale or lease are not subject to fees or the requirements of the bill. Number four, clearly outline the expectations with the property owner to maintain their buildings and property, including the exterior windows, utilities and keeping the property free of trash, junk, debris, and hazardous substances. And finally, number five, provide property owners due process to challenge decisions made by the city or town. The Arizona League of Cities and Towns drafted and supports the proposed legislation introduced by District 8 Representative Thomas Shope, Jr., and supported by the numerous cities and towns throughout the State. Staff’s recommendation to City Council is to discuss and possibly take action to support Resolution No. 20-04.

Councilwoman Rogers: Mr. Mayor, in terms of discussion, I have some questions. On Item, there’s not a particular page, but the Resolution No. 20-04, opposing House Bill 2016, which it says here in our Resolution if
we were to vote for it or sign it, that we, it is directly contrary to HB 2705. But I could be 100% wrong, but I have no knowledge that I’ve read HB 2615.

Mr. Vidaurri: This is not the correct Resolution to have been in this agenda packet. It should have been a Resolution supporting 2705.

Councilwoman Rogers: Twenty-seven …

Mr. Vidaurri: So you’re correct, Councilwoman Rogers.

Councilwoman Rogers: Oh, so.

Mr. Vidaurri: And we have a drafted Resolution House Bill 2705.

Councilwoman Rogers: But is 2615 directly contrary, or I can’t read for myself if that’s true or not. I just don’t feel like I know …

Mr. Vidaurri: House Bill 2615, Councilwoman Rogers, is something that the League opposes. One of the requirements of House Bill 2615 is that owners of vacant buildings and properties maintain their utilities during the time which the building is vacant or abandoned. And this conflicts with House Bill 2705 in that buildings that are slum and blight buildings where you have a situation that the buildings are actually boarded up, they’re a health and safety issue, in those buildings we do not want utilities turned on because someone may get into that building and electrocute themselves or hurt themselves in some form or fashion. And so, the Bills do oppose each other. However, what I’m saying today is this Resolution should not have been in the packet. It should have been the Resolution for House Bill 2705, supporting the League’s recommendation to support the legislation that was introduced by Representative Shope. And so with that said, Mr. Attorney, I guess we’ll have to table this item?

Councilwoman Rogers: Yes.

Mr. Yu: I would agree with that.

Councilwoman Rogers: I move to table.

Mr. Vidaurri: Yes.

Councilwoman Rogers: This item.

Mayor Teso: Do we have a motion?

Councilwoman Rogers: I move to table this item until …

Vice-Mayor Lopez: Second.
Councilwoman Rogers: ... it’s straightened out. Seconded.

Mayor Teso: Mr. Oyegbola.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Excuse me. Point of order. Should it be postponed to a certain date? I mean we, we need to support the legislation. In respect that, that I, I do support it, but the motion to table maybe would require a motion to remove it from the table, but if we postpone it to a certain date like the next meeting, then the, we could address it at that time. Mr. Yu?

Mr. Yu: I see your point, Acting Mayor Diaz. And I think that may be the most appropriate way to go so that the Council can reconsider it when there is the proper language.

Councilwoman Rogers: Okay. Notice this and on the table. I was gonna ask something.

Mayor Teso: Okay. So we’ll vote on the table.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Postpone it. Is it postpone it or table?

Councilwoman Rogers: No, I moved it and he seconded it, and there’s no discussion on ...

Acting Mayor Diaz: Oh.

Councilwoman Rogers: ... the table.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Well, it was point of order.

Councilwoman Rogers: Okay. That was okay, but now I can’t talk because it’s tabled.

Mr. Yu: I understand the current motion be a motion, a motion to table.

Mayor Teso: Right.

Mr. Yu: That’s pending.

Mayor Teso: Okay. Well, let’s vote on that and then we can amend it or whatever.

Mayor Teso: Mr. Oyegbola.
Councilman Oyegbola: Aye.
Mayor Teso: Mr. Romero.
Councilman Romero: No.
Mayor Teso: Mr. Diaz.
Acting Mayor Diaz: No.
Mayor Teso: Ms. Romero.
Councilwoman Romero: No.
Mayor Teso: Ms. Rogers.
Councilwoman Rogers: Is it move to table? Aye.
Mayor Teso: Mr. Lopez.
Vice-Mayor Lopez: Yes.
Mayor Teso: No. Motion carries.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Okay. So I, I move to postpone it to the next Regular meeting.

Councilman Romero: Two meetings.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Huh? Two meetings? Yeah, the next one is the 16th. For two meetings, the, the following, to be March ...

Mr. Vidaurri: It will be February ...

Mayor Teso: February.

Mr. Vidaurri: ... 17th, 18th.

Mayor Teso: Yeah.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Isn’t that when ...

Mr. Vidaurri: (Inaudible) ...

Acting Mayor Diaz: ... we have ...

Mr. Vidaurri: ... (inaudible) would be March the 3rd, that’s correct.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Right. March 3rd.

Mr. Vidaurri: March the 3rd. Yes, sir.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Yeah, to ...

Councilman Romero: Second.

Acting Mayor Diaz: ... postpone it to the March 3rd. Second.

Mayor Teso: Okay.

Councilwoman Rogers: Is that a ...

Mayor Teso: Do we have ...
Councilwoman Rogers: ... motion?

Mayor Teso: What’s that?

Councilwoman Rogers: Is that a motion?

Mayor Teso: That’s a motion, yes.

Councilwoman Rogers: Oh.

Mayor Teso: And seconded it.

Councilwoman Rogers: Oh, he seconded it.

Mayor Teso: Do we have any discussion on that?

Councilwoman Rogers: I’ll second.

Acting Mayor Diaz: No, ...

(Simultaneous conversation)

Mayor Teso: It’s already been seconded.

Councilwoman Rogers: Oh, it did? Good. Remove me.

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. Motion carries.

ITEM #11 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION REGARDING PUBLIC BODY REGISTRATION AND DESIGNATION OF CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON PUBLIC LOBBYIST
Mr. Vidaurri: Mr. Mayor, members of the Council, this came up in our discussions with the Arizona League with, with respect to the Legislature convening in mid-January of this year, the 54th Legislature, and, their recommendation, since there was some proposed legislation in the form of House Bill 2705, to address vacant and abandoned buildings and absentee owners, that the City might want to consider actually appointing a lobbyist for that purpose. Our attorney, Mr. Yu, has done some research and he’s prepared a, a Council agenda report for you to go into more detail about what some of your options are.

Mr. Yu: Mayor, members of the Council, I’m gonna go through the agenda report as I (inaudible) do. But (inaudible) lobbying the State Legislature as defined under Arizona state law, very specific, and it’s (inaudible) beginning with A.R.S. 41-1231 and that goes with subsections (inaudible). Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 41-1232.01(c), a City Council uses a public lobbyist. The City Council is required to register with the State Legislature on the second Monday in January of each odd numbered year, so for example, the next one would be January 21st, or January 2021, I should say. January 2023, you would pick one after January 2025, so it’s every odd numbered year. Now, A.R.S. Section 41-1232.02 provides that individual City Council member, so all of you, may lobby State Legislators without having to meet any reporting requirements. According to attorney Christina Estes-Werther of the Arizona League of Cities and Towns, the bulk of Arizona municipalities having designated lobbyist that represents the municipality in their governmental meetings, in most municipalities that do so, the designated lobbyist is the City or Town Manager, or the City or Town Clerk. There are certainly municipalities that are very active with the State Legislature, and then others that are, are less active. The League’s staff that try to directly influence State Legislators are, need to be designated as public lobbyists and may, are, as the attorney, Ms. Estes-Werther, has not been a designated lobbyist since she only offers technical support to League staff. If the City ultimately chooses to designate a public lobbyist, the subsection, A.R.S. Section 41-1232.01(a) provides that the City Council needs to take action. And that action is to, would be to designate the lobbyist by filing the Secretary of State’s form on the subject and that form, of course, complies with State law. A.R.S. Section 41-1232.01(b), so it’s a later subsection, requires a Council to provide notice if, if a lobbyist is designated to them so they’re, they’re aware that they’ve been selected and that they are required to register and file all reports required under State law. And with that, further details regarding these requirements. On the specific parameter, or specifically designated in that subsection and would, of course, be provided with that notice. The annual and quarterly reporting requirements for designated public lobbyists are fully contained in the next sections, A.R.S. Section 41-1232.02 and A.R.S. Section 41-1232.03. At this time, the agenda item is for discussion and possible direction regarding any public body registration and designation of a public lobbyist, should the City Council want to do that. And if further action by the City Council’s desire, City staff would come back at a later date with the prepared forms for City Council’s approval. And if there are any further questions for me, I can, hopefully, answer them.

Councilwoman Rogers: Mr. Mayor, I just have a input from me only, of course, and that is I do not care, since I did Vail’s for three, for many years, I do not care to pay a paid lobbyist until we have a fourth fire fighter.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Mr. Mayor, Mr. Yu, how do you picture the, the lobbyist to, to work or, the, Mr. Vidaurri, if the lobbyist would be here, locally, or would it be up there in Phoenix lobbying the whole State or, because where I’m kind of from is the fact that the, we have our old senator and two reps here that, that really know South Tucson, and we also have two friendlier, to the west of us, the senator and both representatives we can
talk to as far as, you know, the South Tucson, so as an activist myself, I, I talk to all of them. And if, if you needed a paid lobbyist or a lobbyist up in Phoenix, is that what you’re looking at or?

Mr. Vidaurri: Mr. Mayor, Acting Mayor Diaz, no, not necessarily. I think the whole issue with respect to the lobbyist was promulgated by the fact that there was some legislation that staff felt, and the League felt, was going to be important to addressing some of the issues that we have in, in our community with respect to vacant, abandoned, boarded buildings owned by absentee property owners, so it really wasn’t meant to be an extensive use of a lobbyist throughout the Legislative Session. And in the past, we have had, I believe Rene Gastelum, at one point, served in the capacity of a lobbyist for the City of South Tucson. So, it can actually be a, a staff person who already has travel and training funds, and should the need be required for the person to go to Phoenix and work with the Arizona League or address the Legislature in any capacity, that the funds would already be there. There would be no need to pay a lobbyist to do that. And so, that was the intent was to have the lobbyist work with the League in whatever capacity they felt to represent the City in supporting House Bill 2705. You can use a lobbyist more extensively with respect to all of the legislation that comes before the, the 54th Legislature, but that really wasn’t the, the intent at this point. And so, the intent was not to have a paid lobbyist. So the solution to that is either use staff or a Council member who doesn’t need to apply through the Secretary of State, chosen by, by the City Council, one person can actually represent the City in that same process as indicated by our City Attorney.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Should it be all of the Council being activists in regards to, the League sends out their reports of the legislation that passes. And I was looking at the retirement portion of the, of the Governor’s budget and that was something that we really need to look at as far as, you know, being activists for through the League, you know, but I think the League is the head of the, our legislative functions as far as, you know, the State goes. And like I was saying, we have our local representatives here, so I think all of us can be active, activists, you know, meeting with them here locally.

Mr. Vidaurri: I, I believe so, Mr. Mayor, Acting Mayor, however, the City Council, in terms of whether or not they want to support legislation or not, would need to go through the process as were, we attempted to do today so that the person, or persons on City Council that are lobbying, lobby based on the actions taken by the Council …

Mayor Teso: Right.

Mr. Vidaurri: … as a whole so that there’s no divisiveness there. And someone opposed to a vote on a Resolution to support something shows up at the State Legislature and says, “No, I don’t support it as a Council member of the City of South Tucson,” yet, the City Council passed a Resolution supporting it. So, as long as there’s that clarity, then there’s not an issue.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Alright, yeah.

Councilwoman Rogers: Okay.

Acting Mayor Diaz: I agree.
Councilwoman Rogers: Mr. Mayor, I have just a little, one add-on on that that concerns me. First of all, Christina is up at the Leagues of Towns and Cities. I talk to her a lot, so I know different things that, about it, but I did call her and ask her if it was true that all the City of Phoenix disbanded from even being a member of Leagues and Towns and Cities, and that’s true. And I was just wondering why. Did they want their own City, Phoenix, the largest in the State of Arizona, not to be a member because perhaps they didn’t like what the Towns and Cities was presenting? I don’t know the answer, but it is a big deal to me that Phoenix left it. And I don’t know if South Tucson needs a paid lobbyist, that place.

Mayor Teso: So it seems to me that there’s an option that exists of establishing a lobbyist internally.

Mr. Vidaurri: Yes, there is.

Councilwoman Rogers: Yeah.

Mr. Vidaurri: There is an option to do that and have ...

Mayor Teso: And typically, that’s the, either the City Manager or the City Clerk?

Mr. Vidaurri: At the staff level, in the past it’s been the City Manager. The, the City Council, I believe, in early to mid 2000’s had appointed Mr. Fernando Castro, I believe is his name, and he actually served as a lobbyist. But I believe he was paid. And the idea here is not to have to go to that expense.

Mayor Teso: Right, right.

Mr. Vidaurri: But to be able to do it within our own budgets, whether it’s a staff person or a Council person. Well, Council can, can lobby at any time, as I mentioned earlier, just as long as the person that’s speaking to the Arizona League of Cities and Towns, or the State Legislature speaks on behalf of the City Council, which either supports or does not support the proposed legislation, and not take their own personal view that I don’t support his. Although you could, I would assume.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Yeah, you could.

Mr. Vidaurri: You could. Yes, you could. As a Council member that doesn’t ...

Councilwoman Rogers: Wasn’t ...

Mr. Vidaurri: ... support a ...

Councilwoman Rogers: ... for it.

Mr. Vidaurri: ... Resolution passed by the City Council.

Councilwoman Rogers: Right.
Mr. Vidaurri: So you can do that now.

Mayor Teso: Right.

Mr. Vidaurri: So, now the question is would you like to appoint a staff person to serve in that capacity as well? And if that’s the case, as I indicated, in the past it’s generally been the City Manager that, …

Mayor Teso: Right.

Mr. Vidaurri: … that serves in that capacity.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Do you have experience?


Councilman Romero: Could we have a, okay, say have somebody go around and see if we got any volunteers that are willing to do that, other than our City Manager. Maybe there might be someone else that, that could do that. You know, I know you’d be great at the job …

Mr. Vidaurri: I, Mr. Mayor, Councilman Romero, I had suggested the City Attorney previously. I mean mostly what you have at the State Legislature are attorneys. However, he was considering it and I’m not sure whether or not …

(Laughter, simultaneous conversation)

Mr. Vidaurri: … he’d agree to do it.

(Simultaneous conversation)

Councilman Romero: We can have him draw straws.

Mr. Vidaurri: And, of course, the City Clerk, who has also served in the …

Councilwoman Rogers: I think …

Mr. Vidaurri: … capacity of …

Councilwoman Rogers: … she’s saying no.

Mayor Teso: Maybe we should ask first.

Councilman Romero: Yeah, see if we have a volunteer.

(Simultaneous conversation)
Mayor Teso: Do we have, do we have any volunteers in the two that are here?

Acting Mayor Diaz: Can we just have the position first and then, of course, ...

Councilwoman Rogers: Wait, (inaudible) ...

Acting Mayor Diaz: ... with the legislative part of the, have the, the person assigned?

Councilwoman Rogers: And we see how it goes.

Mayor Teso: Okay. What are you asking?

Acting Mayor Diaz: See how it, we, we create the position that, first.

Councilwoman Rogers: Well, Mr. Mayor, it says discussion and possible direction is what we’re doing here now, right?

Mayor Teso: Right, right.

Councilwoman Rogers: So that’s all we have ...

Mayor Teso: Okay.

Councilwoman Rogers: ... to do is either or.

Mayor Teso: Okay.

Councilwoman Rogers: Discussion and possible direction, just tell whatever, what you want them to do.

Mayor Teso: Right. I mean we could direct staff to recruit and see if there is anybody who wants to volunteer to do that.

Mr. Vidaurri: Certainly, we can do that, Mr. Mayor, and, and in the meantime, any of you can serve in that capacity without having to apply through the Secretary of State. So we have a lobbyist.

Councilwoman Rogers: Yeah.

Mayor Teso: Right.

(Simultaneous conversation)

Mayor Teso: So we could add this to the, to the next agenda.
Mr. Vidaurri: For the next agenda ...

Mayor Teso: Yeah.

Mr. Vidaurri: ... which would be March the 3rd. We'll have a staff person for you all to consider.

Councilwoman Rogers: Thank you.

Mayor Teso: Okay.

Acting Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Mayor Teso: Thank you.

Mr. Vidaurri: Yes, sir.

Mayor Teso: We need to adjourn from Regular Session to convene as a Housing Governing Board. Do we have a motion?

Councilwoman Rogers: So moved.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: 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. We are now in Housing Governing Board Session and Mr. Benz is not here.

ITEM #12 – HOUSING REPORT – DECEMBER 2019 AND JANUARY 2020

Ms. Chico: Good evening, Chairman Teso and Board of Commissioners, I’m going to make this short this week. You’ve gotten the written report. What I’d like to do is let you know that our three burned units were approved, inspected and we got the final inspection by Henry Durazo, as well as Robert Moreno. They do have three items so that’s why we keep a retention, make sure those things get done. So, we will have the
second and third floor apartments leased up soon. Bottom one we can’t do because one of the punch list items is no security door and, because that’s a ground floor, just for safety, we want it there. So we’ll wait until that one comes in. The major problem that I’m seeing, and which has caused our Corrective Action Plan, is the turnaround time for our vacant units. So, I’ve been calling weekly meetings with Robert Moreno as our Maintenance Supervisor, and Cecilia Calderon as our Public Housing Specialist. I want to make sure packets are out with the applicants, that we’ve got all the info so as soon as an apartment is ready, that applicant move in. The problem is the turnaround time. The last two meetings I’ve had, I’ve not been happy. You probably got the gist of that in my report, that I’m seeing no improvement. So, tomorrow, again, I will be meeting with the same staff. I’m expecting much more positive input, especially from maintenance, and a heck of a lot more improvement. The longer it takes to ready a place for occupancy, the longer it sits on a list, and the more HUD looks at that, and comes down on us. Yes, sir?

Commissioner R. Romero: Is that due to manpower, we don’t have enough people in there to be able to get the stuff done?

Ms. Chico: We have two laborers right now that are doing the apartments. Per our maintenance policy and what HUD looks at in our policy, one person, five days in an apartment should be able to turn it over. Now these two men, they’re working, but my problem is and it’s been brought up, is the supervision over them. I need our Maintenance Supervisor to be on them, kicking a little toosh to get things done. I know he’s also been busy. However, if this is going to rack up more negativity to my Housing, my Housing Authority, I’m sorry, I get real, 20 years, if it, if it affects the Housing Authority any more, I’m really gonna be coming down here with some issues that I will be discussing with people around here. I’m hoping that tomorrow, again, tomorrow’s meeting is gonna be better. And I will definitely reflect that in my next mee-, Board report to you. What HUD wants to see is our meetings for turnaround, what’s going on, what’s the cause, what’s the problem. Now when I’ve talked to our Maintenance Supervisor before, he’s got three other names that I’ve already done criminal backgrounds on, that he could hire to help. Because we’ve got a few, you know, vacancies. He, his, his argument is that he would have to take off time to train ‘em. And so I said starting looking at other places instead of just getting a laborer, and get somebody that knows how to do this. If we have to put an ad in the paper, if we have to pay a little more, so be it. But I need these things turned around. I need them occupied now.

Commissioner Diaz: So it does reflect on your vacancy report?

Ms. Chico: Yes. The turnaround time, if it’s long and it’s taking them a long time, I can’t get people in. So, it affects our occupancy percentage. Because as long as the unit is vacant, nobody is in there.

Commissioner Diaz: So, it also affects the backlog and everything else, right?

Ms. Chico: I’m sorry?

Commissioner Diaz: The backlog of occupants and all that.

Ms. Chico: It affects everything. It affects our, our scoring. The units that are not occupied, we don’t get subsidy for, ‘cause we get monthly subsidy from HUD. People ask for raises. You can’t do that. Well, number
one, we couldn’t anyway because we’re under the City. But even if, we don’t have the money coming in to pay for things like that. We’ve got our rent. We’ve got our subsidy from HUD. Everything has got to be taken care of with those two revenues. But if we’re getting cut because we’re not getting all the subsidy we should, then that means something is gonna be lacking.

Commissioner Diaz: Right. Excuse me, but you had that on the last report also, right? The, the vacancy, the problem with the employees, you had that ...

Ms. Chico: Yes.

Commissioner Dias: ... on your report last time.

Ms. Chico: I believe so.

Commissioner Diaz: We’re gonna, you’re gonna report it again for next month also?

Ms. Chico: I’m gonna report this each time. I will have my Board, my, my Board meeting, I will have my staff meetings. I want you, as the Council, or as my Board, I’m sorry, as the Board, to know what we’re up against, what the problem is, why there is a problem, who’s the problem. I want you to know everything there is know about it. I’ve got to be extremely transparent with what’s going on because it’s your Housing Authority. And I don’t like some of the stuff I write. But it’s honest.

Chairman Teso: Are there regular employee reviews?

Ms. Chico: Yes.

Chairman Teso: Conducted?

Ms. Chico: There are. And that’s a personnel issue.

Chairman Teso: Right.

Commissioner Rogers: Yeah. Private.

Ms. Chico: But again, I am, I am doing everything, I’m trying to think positively. I’ve done everything I can as far as trying to come up with ideas to improve. So, tomorrow, it will be telling. And, again, that will be part of my Board reports so you will see if we’re improving or we’re going down the drain. And if we’re going down the drain, I want a big stopper.

Commissioner Rogers: Alright. Mr. Mayor, I just want to give a comment to two things that, about what Ms. Chico is saying. It’s very important that the Commission understands that you are held responsible, not the employee. And so, therefore, I’m listening very carefully and I read every line. It is our problem.

Chairman Teso: Right.
Commissioner: It is our issue. And I just want to remind, I don’t know who they are, but two people here have not yet been commissioned. So I would expect that to happen. I don’t know who it is.

Ms. Chico: Thank you. There are two Commissioners. Please look at the stuff that I handed you several months back. All you have to do is email or call me and say you looked at it. That’s all HUD wants to know.

Chairman Teso: Right.

Ms. Chico: So, please, when you can. So that is.

Commissioner Rogers: Oh, Mr. Mayor, one more thing, I don’t like that we only have one Housing Representative, Mr. Benz, and he seems to always be missing from the Commission. That is my second comment.

Ms. Chico: Board Chairman, he’s suing us. He’s suing the Housing Authority right now. It’s in litigation. We don’t know, you know, we’ve got our Risk Manager from our insurance looking at everything, talking to his attorney. I don’t know where that stands, but right now, I’m glad he’s not here, in all honesty, because I would want somebody that somewhat supports the Housing Authority and would work with the Commissioners. But we’ll see what happens. It was asked by City Manager why we don’t appoint someone else. Right now, I don’t think that we could because of what’s going on, but I can certainly check with Mr. Yu and, you know, HUD because if that’s the case (inaudible) go on for, I don’t know how long, then maybe that’s a good idea.

Commissioner Rogers: Mr. Mayor, seven of us are on it and there could be two, three, four or five, I believe, that could be from houses around here, Section 8, and all that. It isn’t limited to one. I used to do Housing at Tucson Ministry. I don’t think, but it could be different.

Ms. Chico: The way that we got the, the resident Board member, they have to be a member of the Resident Council. And we do have some people on there and actually, well, HUD, this is all being brought up because it’s about time we started getting new names. They’ve been on the Resident Council and we’ve actually got one that’s ceased and now we’ve got one that’s, can’t be here. So, …

Chairman Teso: How long are their terms?

Commissioner Rogers: Forever.

Ms. Chico: They’re usually three years. And I’ve got to check because it seems like it may be a little longer that we’ve had these. You know, I’m just up to here right now. I’ll have to …

Chairman Teso: Yeah.

Ms. Chico: … look into that and see when we had the last election, but definitely it’s time to, you know, have some meetings. And it is open to anyone and everyone that’s in, who is a resident.
Chairman Teso: Right.

Ms. Chico: On the lease. And we can open a meeting, see who’s interested. We do the ballots. We always have somebody come sit as we’re counting. There’s usually two, three of us up there at the table counting ballots so everybody knows. And then we have our Resident Council. It’s a Resident Advisory.

Chairman Teso: Right.

Ms. Chico: And then one of them would be the person that would be the next Commissioner.

Chairman Teso: Right.

Ms. Chico: Or, yeah.

Chairman Teso: And that Council meets regularly?

Ms. Chico: Pardon?

Chairman Teso: The Council meets regularly?

Ms. Chico: I don’t know when they meet. I haven’t met with them in a long time because now that we had our own Resident Commissioner, if something is coming up, he would get a copy of the Resolution. He would get a copy of the report first so that we could discuss things so he knew what was going on. And then it was supposed to be up to him to be the spokesman, ‘cause that’s what he is, you know, he’s representing all the residents. So, once he receives something, even a policy change that, you know, it’s a Resolution coming before you, he is supposed to be taking it to all the residents so they know what’s going on. It’s part of his duties.

Chairman Teso: Ms. Chico, I would encourage you to go out, back there and see if you can get the Council to select another person, if, if, especially if his term is already expired or.

Ms. Chico: Exactly, and …

Chairman Teso: You know, …

Ms. Chico: … (inaudible) let me check when we had these, let’s get rolling on some new issues.

Chairman Teso: Right.

Ms. Chico: Ballots. Perhaps a new person. But thank you. That was a.

Commissioner Rogers: Mr. Mayor, one …
Ms. Chico: Great idea.

Commissioner Rogers: ... more thing. I don’t know if we did, and you will know if we did, but I don’t know that we put Mr. Alan Benz as absent when you called the Roll Call.

Chairman Teso: I did today.

Commissioner Rogers: You did?

Chairman Teso: Yeah.

Commissioner Rogers: Okay, thank you.

Commissioner R. Romero: May I ask you this? If he’s suing the City, why is he on the Board? Can we just replace him because that would be a conflict of interest or something like that.

Ms. Chico: He’s excused himself from being on the Board while this is going on. So he has nothing to say or do.

Commissioner R. Romero: Well, that kind ...

Ms. Chico: (Inaudible) ...

Commissioner R. Romero: ... of opens the door for us to appoint someone else, doesn’t it?

Ms. Chico: You don’t appoint them, though.

Chairman Teso: Right.

Ms. Chico: The residents appoint them.

Chairman Teso: The residents appoint ‘em.

Ms. Chico: Because they are a Resident Board member.


Ms. Chico: But everything else is in the report. I hope that the next report is a lot more positive and make you smile.

Commissioner R. Romero: Thank you.

Commissioner Diaz: Thank you.
Chairman Teso: Any other questions?

(No questions from the Commissioners)

Commissioner Diaz: I move we adjourn the Housing Session and convene into City Regular Session.

Commissioner Lopez: Second.

Chairman Teso: Mr. Oyegbola.
Commissioner Oyegbola: Aye.
Chairman Teso: Mr. Romero.
Commissioner R. Romero: Si.
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: Yeah.
Chairman Teso: Aye. Motion carries.

ITEM #13 – ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Teso: Do we have a motion to adjourn?

Councilman Oyegbola: Mr. Mayor, I’d like to make a motion that we adjourn tonight’s meeting so some of these elderly Council members can go to bed.

Vice-Mayor Lopez: 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.
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Mayor Teso: Aye. The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

_______________________________________
Mayor

ATTEST:

_______________________________________
Veronica Moreno, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council of South Tucson, Arizona, held on the 4th day of February, 2020. I further certify the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this ________ day of ________________________, 2020.

_______________________________________
Veronica Moreno, City Clerk