

Minutes of the Regular Agenda Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, held Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at the City of South Tucson Council Chambers, 1601 S. 6th Avenue, South Tucson, Arizona.

Staff Present: Veronica Moreno, Interim City Manager
 Lourdes Aguirre, Finance Director
 Danny Denogean, Public Safety Director and Chief of Police
 Imelda Robles, Housing Director
 Michelle Stinson, City Attorney

Councilors Present: Mayor Paul Diaz
 Vice Mayor Herman Lopez
 Acting Mayor Rita Rogers
 Councilor Anita Romero
 Councilor Cesar Aguirre
 Councilor Brian Flagg
 Councilor Roxanna Valenzuela

Others Present: Allen Benz, Resident
 Sheriff David Hathaway, Santa Cruz County
 Dennis Jordan, Miracle on 31st Street

Mayor Diaz called the Regular Agenda Meeting of November 7, 2023, to order at 6:00 p.m. Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and Land Acknowledgment and Mission Statements.

ITEM #03 – LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND MISSION STATEMENT

Vice Mayor Lopez: On behalf of South Tucson residents, we honor the Tribal Nations who have served as caretakers of this land from time immemorial and respectfully acknowledge the ancestral homelands of the Tohono O’odham Nation and the multi-millennial presence of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe within South Tucson. Consistent with the City of South Tucson’s commitment to diversity and inclusion, we strive toward building equal-partner relationships with Arizona’s Tribal Nations.

Acting Mayor Rogers: The Mission Statement of the City of South Tucson is to build up this community through mutual cooperation between we, your public servants, and you our citizens so that jointly we can build a safer and stronger City. Amen.

ITEM #04 – ROLL CALL (By City Manager Moreno):

Vice Mayor Lopez. Here.
Acting Mayor Rogers. Here.
Councilor Romero. Here.
Mayor Diaz. Here.
Councilor Flagg. Here.
Councilor Aguirre. Here.
Councilor Valenzuela. Here.

Mayor Diaz: We do have a quorum, thank you.

ITEM #05 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Diaz: Can I get a motion for each one? The first one is for a motion for the Regular Meeting of October 17th. May I have a motion?

Vice Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, I would like to make a motion that we approve the Minutes for October 17th Regular Meeting.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Second.

Mayor Diaz: Ok. Roll Call.

Vice Mayor Lopez. Yes.

Acting Mayor Rogers. Aye.

Councilor Romero. Aye.

Mayor Diaz. Aye.

Councilor Flagg. Yes.

Councilor Aguirre. Aye.

Councilor Valenzuela. Aye.

Mayor Diaz: The next one is for the Special Meeting of October 25.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, I would like to make the same motion for October 25th Special Meeting to have the Minutes approved.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Second.

Mayor Diaz: Moved and Seconded. Roll Call.

Vice Mayor Lopez. Yes.

Acting Mayor Rogers. Aye.

Councilor Romero. Aye.

Mayor Diaz. Aye.

Councilor Flagg. Aye.

Councilor Aguirre. Yes.

Councilor Valenzuela. Yes.

Mayor Diaz: And again, I need a motion for the October 30th Special Meeting.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, I make a motion that we approve the Minutes for October 30, 2023.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Second.

Mayor Diaz: Moved and Seconded. Roll Call.

Vice Mayor Lopez. Yes.

Acting Mayor Rogers. Aye.

Councilor Romero. Aye.

Mayor Diaz. Aye.

Councilor Flagg. Aye.
Councilor Aguirre. Aye.
Councilor Valenzuela. Aye.

CALL TO PUBLIC

Mayor Diaz: If there is anybody that would like to address the Council at this time, please do so. Ms. Aguirre.

Ms. Aguirre: Good evening, Mr. Mayor. We have two cards filled out here. The first one I have is Mr. Allen Benz, resident. The address provided is South Tucson Housing Authority and the topic is Transit.

Mr. Benz: Good evening, Mayor and Council.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Good evening.

Mr. Benz: I come before you again, this time to update you as a stakeholder that works for the City of Tucson that was authorized by Tucson Mayor and Council in May of this year regarding future directions for Sun Tran and Regional Transit in the Tucson Metro area and also all of Pima County. Today and tonight the brief items are the summary from the last stakeholder meeting, which was in October of last year, October 23. I'll try to make this as brief as possible. There were three recommendations that came out of that particular meeting. There's going to be a final meeting next Monday where hopefully everything gets hashed out and gets ready to get shipped off to Tucson Mayor and Council for their advice and consent or not. Anyway, the three recommendations from the last meeting, recommendation on securing funding for fare-free transit through the remainder of fiscal year '24 for the short term. For the mid-term, recommendation for secure funding for fare-free transit indefinitely.

Councilor Flagg: Right on.

Mr. Benz: And three, long-term recommendation for sustainable transit funding source and also reorganization of transit governance and jurisdiction in Pima County. One thing that is most on the members' minds and probably also on Mayor and Council, is the possible change from the City of Tucson owning and operating the bus system to a new Metropolitan Public Transit Authority, which would not be the RTA, but which would be an elected body, and the MPTA is authorized by Arizona Revised Statutes. It can be formed solely by the Mayor and Council through a City Ordinance and then allowing other agencies to join by agreement if they so desire. The ARS mandates a voter elected board of directors with full authority for policy funding and operational decisions for all aspects of transit and RTA governance.

Councilor Flagg: It's been three minutes.

Ms. Aguirre: Time is up.

Mr. Benz: That's it? Anyway, so the summary is right here and I am giving it to the Manager and she can copy it and distribute it as need be.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Thank you.

Councilor Flagg: Thank you, Allen.

Councilor Valenzuela: Thank you.

Ms. Aguirre: The next speaker we have is Sheriff David Hathaway, not a resident, from Nogales, Arizona; Greetings from Santa Cruz County.

Sheriff Hathaway: Hello. It's great to see you guys. I am the elected Sheriff from Santa Cruz County which is the County just south of here, and would like to try to speak a little bit of Spanish. Porque escuché por un tiempo que a la señora Romero le gustaría que habláramos en español. Por lo tanto, es un privilegio para mí conocerte en persona. Siempre escucho la grabación de audio de las reuniones. Entonces lo que quiero decir es que somos amigos, estamos en la lucha contra la imagen negativa de la frontera de los migrantes, una lucha compartida, voy a empezar en inglés. Because I heard for a while that Mrs. Romero would like us to speak in Spanish, therefore, it is a privilege for me to meet you in person. I always listen to the audio recording of meetings. So what I want to say is that we're friends, we're in the fight against the negative image of the border of migrants, a shared fight. Now I'm going to start in English. Aside from being Sheriff, that's the biggest thing I do, work as an ambassador for the border communities and explain to people, not like you hear in the national media, it's peaceful. I live right along the border, I walk along the border every evening, and it's a peaceful community, crime rates are very low, so I just wanted to come up and say hi in person. I feel like I know you guys because I do listen to the meetings, the audio recordings of the meetings. And that's all I really have, Mayor. I do have one of our challenge coins for you, it's the Sheriff's badge from Santa Cruz County.

Councilor Flagg: That's pretty good, yeah!

Ms. Moreno: Thank you.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Ms. Aguirre: And the final speaker for tonight is Dennis Jordan, not a resident, address, Miracle on 31st Street, I guess that's the topic. Mr. Jordan, you may approach.

Mr. Jordan: I was waiting for more people to come. They are on their way.

Councilor Valenzuela: Can we push that to the end?

Acting Mayor Rogers: Because they're not here yet?

Ms. Moreno: I can move that to after Council Members Reports.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, thank you.

ITEM #06 - MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS: REPORTS OF CURRENT EVENTS

Mayor Diaz: First, we will take the Proclamation for Valdez Fimbres Family Day. Vice Mayor, would you, please.

Ms. Moreno: Mayor, if I may, just to give a little bit of information regarding the Proclamation, I'd like to do that before so the Council knows how the request came about to Mayor Diaz. This particular Proclamation came through my office, as well as the Mayor's, via email, from City of Tucson Councilor Mr. Richard Fimbres, so the family known as Aurelia and her husband Feliciano Fimbres, they are a founding family here in Tucson who has deep roots, nine generations that includes Barrio Libre in the City of South Tucson, as well as Meyer Street in the City of Tucson. So they will be celebrating their family reunion coming up on November 24th and

they asked both entities if they could do a Proclamation in their honor. So the City of Tucson initiated the Proclamation and they requested the City of South Tucson as well.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Proclamation for the City of South Tucson, November 24, 2023, "Fimbres Family Day". *Whereas*, Feliciano Fimbres, born in 1895, and Aurelia Valdez, born in 1899, were both first generation U.S. citizens. They married on May 20, 1921 in Tucson, Arizona, and raised eight children, Ernesto, Gilberto, Manuel, Carlos, Rudolfo, Maria Del Carmen, Federico and Gloria, in Tucson, Arizona; and, *Whereas*, the Valdez Fimbres Family currently enjoys nine generations, many living across the country, but most of them reside in Tucson, Arizona; and *Whereas*, the Historic American Building Survey of the U.S. Interior Department conducted two studies in 1980 which are registered with the Library of Congress as Fimbres House #1 (509-513 S. Meyer), and Fimbres House #2 (521-525 S. Meyer) (HABZ-AZ-73-17). The summary states: "The name Fimbres has been associated with this section of South Meyer Avenue since 1881, when the City Directory lists a Santos Fimbres. The builder of this house, Feliciano Fimbres Sr. (probably related to Santos), lived here with his family until the late 1930's. Fimbres, a laborer and a wagon driver, lived across the street at 506 South Meyer until he built this dwelling (Fimbres House #1) around 1905. Feliciano and Julia Fimbres has seven children. Two of them, Meyer Avenue in Barrio Historio/Barrio Libre; and, *Whereas*, "Julia Fimbres, the daughter, married Jesus Sanchez and lived next door at 521-525 S. Meyer Avenue, also constructed by Feliciano Fimbres, Sr. in 1926. Jesus and Julia Sanchez died in 1959 and in 1974, but their daughters, Evangelina Cota, still occupies 521-525 S. Meyer with her family". *Whereas*, "The property at 509-513 South Meyer passed out of the Fimbres Family in 1939 has been rented by a succession of short term tenants since that time. The dwellings were converted for commercial use after 1974 by a service agency for the handicapped". *Whereas*, the Valdez Fimbres Family will hold their family reunion on Friday, November 24, 2023, at the Kaycee Club in Tucson, Arizona; and *Whereas*, family reunions provide an opportunity for all in attendance to celebrate a shared heritage, strengthen family ties, recognize marriages and births, and honor those who have passed on; and, *Now Therefore* be it resolved, that the City of South Tucson proclaim November 24th, 2023, to be "Valdez Fimbres Family Day". In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of South Tucson to be affixed on this 7th day of November, 2023. Signed Paul Diaz, Mayor, and attested by Veronica Moreno, City Clerk.

(Applause by Council Members)

Mayor Diaz: Are there any reports or current events?

Councilor Flagg: I do. So I would like to take this opportunity to invite people to Thursday at the U of A at 2:00, if you want to speak out about the genocide of the Palestinian people. The whole idea is to go there and be part of an event that says immediate ceasefire. So, that's at 2:00 at the U of A on Thursday. Numerous groups and local groups are backing it, including Casa Maria, and another thing I would like to invite people to is this guy that is a big rock star, his name is Rich Hopkins, he's kind of famous. He's kind of the inventor of so-called Desert Rock, and he's a good friend of Casa Maria. He put together this, every year he does a big benefit for Casa Maria at Thanksgiving, and they give us the gate, they give us all the money that people pay to get in. And so, it's Saturday, the 18th of November at Club Congress downtown. There's about six or eight, there's about eight bands that are going to play, and they are some of the most famous bands of Tucson if you are a little older like some of us. Kinda live to the north. It will be a great show and I get to be the MC. So anyways, you are invited to that, Saturday, the 18th, at Club Congress, 6:00-10:00.

Vice Mayor Lopez: All I have is on the 14th I have a CART meeting at noon, so I'll be there to prove my attendance.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, thank you. I have an announcement, too, and flyers. This is a Light the World machine; it's kind of like the video machines that are around town, but all the money that is collected there is given to all kinds of charities. It's at 9:00 a.m. on November 18th through December 1st, for donations and stuff. I'd like to get it on the website also for support. That's about it, they're asking for support from South Tucson. Thank you on that one. But I also have another issue here that for the next meeting on the 18th, I would like to put on the agenda that discussion and possible action to hire two firemen. That's the first item, and the other item is to discuss and possible action to hire a consultant for six months at \$35,000. So, I would like to get those two items on the agenda for the next regular meeting. That's about it for me, anybody else? (No response). The next is Item #07.

Ms. Moreno: Mr. Mayor, did you want to invite those present in the Call to the Audience? They are all here now.

Mayor Diaz: Ok.

Ms. Moreno: Mr. Mayor, did you want to invite the persons from the Call to the Audience? They are all here now.

Mayor Diaz: Ok.

Ms. Moreno: People representing Miracle on 31st Street.

Mr. Jordan: First of all, Mayor Paul Diaz, how are you?

Mayor Diaz: Thank you for sharing.

Mr. Jordan: We are representing Miracle on 31st Street. I want to announce that we will be coming down to South Tucson once again to hold our event here at Greyhound Park.

Councilor Flagg: Right on, yeah, about time.

(Applause by Council)

Mr. Jordan: Hello Paul. Mr. Martinez and I will be out there at Miracle on 31st Street and we are here to let you guys know we are bringing it back to South Tucson. This is where it originally started, where the goal was helping the kids. I'm sure you are aware of it. You have probably seen it throughout the years when it first started. It was geared to give kids gifts outside of his home and now we've got Greyhound Park to represent it for us this year, so we're bringing it back. So with your help, and all goes as planned, we have some stuff that we need to ask for, you know, like some street closures, transportation from Rodeo Park, Rudy Garcia Park, to the event which is going to be at Greyhound Park, a police escort, stuff like that.

Mayor Diaz: Ok. In regards to that is we really can't discuss because it's more information to the Council, but make sure that you guys do a proposal with everything that you are going to do or plan to do and make sure that everything is correct with the City permits and stuff like that. You will need to do this, so go ahead and get with the Interim City Manager and talk to her and see what kind of proposal will be accepted.

Mr. Martinez: Thank you.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you, thank you again.

Vice Mayor Lopez: What is the date of your event?

Mr. Jordan: December 17th, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Martinez: We're meeting at Rodeo Park with the car club and car club community, coming down South 6th into Greyhound Park to bring toys, gifts, and give back to the community. It's a free event, there's nothing

Mr. Jordan: It's all sponsored, donations.

Mr. Martinez: I'm happy for this because a lot of toy drives, car shows, a lot of this stuff we do is focused here in South Tucson. So now it's time to get back to where it was coming from. This is something I have been waiting for, for a while.

Acting Mayor Rogers: What were the hours again?

Mr. Jordan: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Ok, thank you.

Vice Mayor Lopez: This is the same group we met at Ochoa School, right?

Mr. Martinez: Yes, Sir.

Vice Mayor Lopez: A couple of weeks ago?

Mr. Jordan: Yes, Sir.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Ok, I'm just trying to put the faces and the events together.

Mr. Jordan: We got the Greyhound Park. That was the first meeting as to where we were going to have it, and now we know we are going to have it there, so we will be there December 17th.

Acting Mayor Rogers: That's good.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Yes, we will.

Unknown Speaker: And I want to tell you guys thank you for the help that you guys give us in welcoming us back to South Tucson to continue helping out the kids and the community as well, and I do want to invite you as well, Paul Diaz, to the Christmas party. You have to dress up as Santa Claus. Thank you.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Thank you, gracias.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

**ITEM #07 - CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENT HEADS: REPORTS TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL -
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION APPLICATIONS**

Ms. Moreno: Yes, Mayor and Members of the Council, good evening. One of the reports you have listed on your agenda is the Planning and Zoning Commission Applications. Our Planning Director Josue Licea could not be here so I am reporting on his behalf. We have posted the Notice from the Vacancy on the Planning and Zoning Commission on the website. There is an application that we requested, and as of to date, we have

received four applications. As we mentioned, we had three vacancies so the Council will be able to review the applications and put on the next agenda for consideration to fill those three vacancies. There was one that we received that was incomplete. We've been trying to contact that applicant but have had no success, but we continue trying to contact the applicant. Did you have a question, Councilor Valenzuela?

Councilor Valenzuela: I thought you had received three applications.

Ms. Moreno: We received three, and then there was a fourth one that was incomplete.

Councilor Valenzuela: Oh, ok, thank you.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Ms. Moreno: And then, the Mayor beat me to it, but I wanted to report on the next agenda we will include a section on the Fire Department, so that will be on the agenda for the 21st. We will have a staff agenda that evening as well. We will have the Housing Authority and Action Item from Finance Department. That completes my report.

ITEM #08 - DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION: CITY MAGISTRATE

Ms. Moreno: Yes, Mayor, Item #08, discussion and direction of possible appointment of City Magistrate. Per a recent meeting, or previous meeting, Mayor and Council directed me to initiate the recruitment process for the position of City Magistrate. A total of three candidates were interviewed at the Council Meeting on October 25th and October 30th. The current contract for the City Magistrate expires November 9th. If the Council wishes to appoint a Magistrate this evening, I am requesting that I am able to work with the potential candidate so we can determine the contract terms and the start date, and then on a recommended motion as to appoint a City Magistrate, a person for the position of City Magistrate, and directing the City Manager to work on the contract period.

Mayor Diaz: Ok.

Councilor Flagg: So moved, right?

Ms. Moreno: So at this time, Mayor and Council, based on the three candidates you interviewed last week, and I can remind you who they were. The first one was Marylou Natividad. The next person was Jovan Ruvalcaba, and the third candidate was the current Magistrate-Judge, Richard Madril. So this is the time if Council wishes to appoint a person to this position.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, I would like to make a motion that we appoint Judge Marylou Natividad to become our full-time pledged Magistrate Judge for our community.

Councilor Flagg: I'd second that.

Mayor Diaz: Motion has been Moved and Seconded. Roll Call.

Ms. Moreno: Mayor, if I may, can we replace the motion to be to appoint Ms. Marylou Natividad to the position of City Magistrate, and direct the City Manager to work up the contract period, and what I can do is put on the agenda for the 21st and we can have the official swearing in.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Sounds good to me.

Ms. Moreno: Ok, motion by Vice Mayor Lopez and Second by Councilor Flagg. Roll Call.

Vice Mayor Lopez. Yes.

Acting Mayor Rogers. Aye.

Councilor Romero. Aye.

Mayor Diaz. Yes.

Councilor Flagg. Yes.

Councilor Aguirre. Yes.

Councilor Valenzuela. Yes.

Ms. Moreno: We do have Ms. Marylou here, Judge Marylou. We can discuss your contract terms after tonight. Would you like to share something with the Council?

Ms. Natividad: Yes, of course. Good evening, Honorable Mayor and Honorable Members of the City Council, thank you very much for your vote of confidence. This is an honor and privilege to serve the people of the City of South Tucson should you deem me and persuade me to be your next Magistrate. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the person who does everything that makes things run smoothly, coordinates everything, Ms. Veronica Moreno. Thank you very much. I assure you if I become your Magistrate, I will treat every person who comes to South Tucson City Court with respect and dignity, and they would have their day in Court. Thank you.

Councilor Flagg: Right on, yeah.

(Applause by Council Members)

Mayor Diaz: And when is the swearing in ceremony?

Ms. Moreno: On the 21st, Mayor, and that would allow the term for the current Judge to be completed.

Mayor Diaz: Ok. So that is the last item that we have. I would like to take this opportunity because I know that South Tucson very rarely recognizes employees, but I would like to recognize Interim City Manager Veronica Moreno's birthday today.

(Applause by Council Members)

Ms. Moreno: Thank you, Mayor, thank you, Council.

ITEM #09 - ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Diaz: Is there a motion to adjourn?

Councilor Aguirre: So moved.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Second.

Mayor Diaz: It's been Moved and Seconded. Please signify by saying Aye.

Council Members: Unanimous Ayes.

Mayor Diaz: Opposed? Signify.

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 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 Agenda Meeting of the City Council of South Tucson, Arizona, held on the 7th day of November, 2023. I further certify the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Veronica Moreno, City Clerk