

Minutes of the Regular Agenda Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, held Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 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
 Josue Licea, Planning Director
 Imelda Robles, Housing Authority Director
 Jon Paladini, 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

Mayor Diaz called the Regular Agenda Meeting of Tuesday, January 16, 2024, to order. 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 of the City of South Tucson is to build up our 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.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

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

Vice Mayor Lopez. Present.
Acting Mayor Rogers. Aye.
Councilor Romero. Aye.
Mayor Diaz. Here.
Councilor Flagg is running late, Mayor.
Councilor Aguirre. Here.
Councilor Valenzuela. Here.

ITEM #05 - SKIP

Call to the Audience

Mayor Diaz: The next is a Call to the Audience. Is there anybody in the audience that would like to address the Council? Any cards?

Ms. Moreno: We have received no cards.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, thank you.

ITEM #06 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Diaz: Approval of Minutes for Regular Meeting of December 19th.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, I move that we accept the Minutes for December 19, 2023.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Second.

Mayor Diaz: It's been moved and seconded. Any additions, subtractions, changes on the Minutes? Hearing none, Roll Call.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Yes.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Aye.

Councilor Romero: Aye.

Mayor Diaz: Aye.

Councilor Flagg just walked in. Councilor Flagg, would you like to a vote for the Minutes?

Councilor Flagg: Yeah.

Ms. Romero: Yes for Councilor Flagg.

Councilor Aguirre: Yes.

Councilor Valenzuela: Yes.

Ms. Moreno: Let the record reflect that Councilor Flagg just arrived.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you. Item #07.

ITEM #07 - MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS: REPORTS OF CURRENT EVENTS

Vice Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Diaz: Vice Mayor Lopez.

Vice Mayor Lopez: On January 12th I attended the South Tucson Housing Authority, they had their open house of all the burned apartments that got remodeled and everything. It was such a wonderful event there, that I had an opportunity to really get to know the ladies that work there, that have been there for a long, long time. It's like a skip and jump when we see each other, you know, and we just catch up. I had the opportunity to really get to know them. Ok, so then on January 13th, my wife and I attended a Racial Healing presentation that they had from 1-6, and it was done by the YWCA League of Women. They had a lot of good entertainment and we travelled around the whole world because they had different (inaudible) from different nationalities there. On January 31st to February 1st, I am hoping we can attend the Sahuarita budget retreat that they invited us to attend as a Council. Hopefully it works out good for us and we have an opportunity to learn something about their budget and compare it to our budget and it means something worthwhile. So then we go on to February 1st through 4th. The Tohono O'odham Nation is having their celebration, the 85th

Anniversary, and I believe it's their rodeo for four days and it's a lot of fun. I have attended several of them and it is something where you get a chance to drive your vehicle in their parade throughout their whole community and you just wave and say hi to people you know and some that have lived in South Tucson. And last but not least, on February 8th, TEP is having their Midtown Reliability Project at the Doubletree on Alvernon from 6-8. And that is all I have, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Councilor Valenzuela: Mayor.

Mayor Diaz: Yes.

Mayor Diaz: I just want to add, there is going to be a barrio cleanup January 27th at 9:00 a.m. It is sponsored by Barrio Restoration and it's going to be through, cleaning up the Greenway, but I don't know exactly where it is going to start. I'll find some information out.

Mayor Diaz: Are there anymore? I have a couple here. We have been invited for the Rodeo Parade and I accepted the application for that, so you all are invited. I put in for seven.

Councilor Flagg: What parade?

Mayor Diaz: Tucson Rodeo Parade, Fiesta de los Vaqueros. If you do attend, make sure you have something to put under you on the seat.

Vice Mayor Lopez: What day is that on, Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Diaz: It's on February 22nd, and I have a request here that I'm not sure if we need consensus or if we need to put it on the agenda, but it is in regard to putting up banners, Cesar Chavez banners, along 6th Avenue. The bars that hold the banners are really up high and they were not noticed when the banners were up, but the minimum height of the bottom one is 15 feet that we know of legally. So, we need at least ten of those to be brought down so we can put banners on those for Cesar Chavez. This is really a dedicated Avenue already. It's Avenida Cesar Chavez. The City of Tucson has the gateway up there at 18th and 6th Avenue, and we dedicated this way back in 2015, it was dedicated for that. So, either consensus to do the work or do we need to carry it to next meeting as a motion?

Councilor Flagg: Who does the work?

City Attorney Paladini: I would recommend if you are going to have a Council discussion on it, that you put it on the next agenda.

Mayor Diaz: Excuse me?

City Attorney Paladini: I would recommend if you are going to have a Council action on it, you put it on the next agenda.

Mayor Diaz: Right, right, that's what I'm asking for, is either consensus or put it on the agenda for next meeting.

City Attorney Paladini: I would just put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mayor Diaz: Ok.

Councilor Flagg: Can I ask a question? Would it be Public Works doing the work?

Mayor Diaz: More than likely, yeah, probably. It's only ten poles. It's not a big expense. Ok, so it would be a future agenda item. That's all I have. Are there anymore future agenda items? No response.

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

Ms. Moreno: Good evening, Mayor, Members of the Council. Happy New Year. It's the first meeting of the year, right? Welcome back. I was going to report on what Councilor Valenzuela mentioned about the cleanup and it is going to be a collaborative effort with Barrio Restorations, Pima County Attorney's Office and Galeria de Mitotera, so they are going to work together, and it is planned, I believe, for January 27th where we will do cleanup here in South Tucson. It's pretty cool because David Garcia, the gentleman in charge of Barrio Restoration, he sent me an email that he picked that day specifically, his birthday, and he chose to celebrate his birthday in South Tucson by doing the cleanup. I thought that was pretty awesome, and thank you, David, if you are listening. And I guess this concludes my reports. I don't have any other reports. I was out of the office last week. A lot of people caught this horrible cold, but we are back in business, and we have a pretty hefty agenda this evening. Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

ITEM #09 - PRESENTATION BY ALLISON WEXLER - TUCSON JEWISH FREE LOAN

Ms. Wexler: My name is Allison Wexler. I am the Executive Director of Tucson Jewish Free Loan. We are a small, non-profit who has been serving residents of Pima, Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties of our state for over 75 years. I appreciate the opportunity to address the Council today. We have been invited here by representatives from Casa Maria, including Councilor Flagg and Councilor Valenzuela, to sort of explain a little bit about what we do and how we are going to partner to serve the community members of South Tucson. So, our mission is to help people achieve financial stability with their dignity intact, and our vision is the southern Arizona whose residents who have equitable access to wealth and opportunity. It has come to Tucson Jewish Free Loan's attention that folks in South Tucson don't know about us, so I brought a stack of brochures and some business cards. People can contact me, but in particular, for a particular partnership I have been working on with Casa Maria is that there are residents in South Tucson who might be at risk of losing their homes because of tax liens that are under \$5,000. And what we were thinking is that, this is what we do all day long. We make interest free loans of up to \$5,000 to help keep people, protect them, from high interest credit card debt or the predatory loans, the title loans, so we can help folks keep their homes without any interest. We offer zero interest loans. If someone borrows \$1,800 from us, they pay back \$1,800 and not a penny more. It is loaned and they have to pay it back, but that is how the funds will recycle and go into new loans. So, when folks in South Tucson make their loan payments, that goes back into the pot to be able to go out into new loans for this particular community. The partnership with South Tucson, Casa Maria, is that the funds are being made available from Casa Maria. We will implement the loans and they would be approved by Councilor Valenzuela. They will come to us, we will get them their loan check, and we will collect and do all the loan servicing. There are no fees. We are not charging Casa Maria a fee. This is a partnership. This is the work we do and we are grateful to be included in this project together and if people have questions, they can contact me here. I can take questions.

Mayor Diaz: The maximum loan was \$5,000?

Ms. Wexler: Yes. We have flexible amount if something comes up where it is just a little over. It really depends, but yeah, in general, that's our maximum loan. That's what we do when we are not working in partnership with another org, that's our maximum, but when we are working with someone else who is providing a portion of the funding then we are open to whatever is needed to be done. We are flexible.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Councilor Flagg: You know, lots of people make their living, it's my understanding, off of going to that courthouse and figuring out who hasn't paid their taxes, and they pay the taxes on it, and the people lose their home to some speculator, some investor, so we were shocked when we heard how many people in South Tucson, how many was it?

Councilor Valenzuela: 200.

Councilor Flagg: 200 places in South Tucson have back taxes so they are on the chopping block, so to speak, and their house bought out from under them. So, we have worked with people in the larger Pima County, it's like a county wide problem. It's not just here and so it's one way the lower income people are really being screwed, so we're really happy to talk with you and partner with you on it. And so, if people know anybody that are having their tax problems, what should they do?

Councilor Valenzuela: They can call me or Allison. We have an application that they would fill out. We would vet it, but this program is specifically for tax liens.

Ms. Wexler: Right.

Councilor Valenzuela: And then she would administrate the loan and that is basically it. It's very low barrier. It's designed that way because we want to keep people in their houses.

Ms. Wexler: Exactly. So the program for the tax liens goes through Roxie, sorry, Councilor Valenzuela. Those specific loans are going to go be pre-approved by Casa Maria, but we can do loans for anyone in South Tucson who has an unexpected expense. Maybe a deductible from a car accident where insurance is covering most of the repairs, but the \$1,000 deductible is prohibitive. We can help people avoid debt, avoid high interest bearing debit, predatory loans, no matter what the expense is. Anything that is a temporary setback, we want to help keep it temporary and prevent it from becoming a permanent financial hardship. So folks in South Tucson who have other needs that are beyond tax liens, they can contact me directly and we will get them into a loan. That is what we do all day, every day.

Councilor Flagg: Right on.

Mayor Diaz: One more. Funeral expense?

Ms. Wexler: Absolutely, yep. The thing with the funeral is it can take us a little bit of time to process the loan, to turn it around, and so it can take up to 30 days to get a loan approved. So with a funeral, it might not come as quickly. We have been known with something like a funeral expense to bump someone to the front of the line. We are busier now than ever so it's hard to gauge how quick we can do it. Ideally, someone would know with 30 days' notice that they have an unexpected expense, but they should call us. Maybe they can put it on a card that we can pay off for them right away before they start getting interest.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, thank you.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, I have a question.

Mayor Diaz: Yes, go ahead.

Vice Mayor Lopez: How long is your loan for?

Ms. Wexler: The term of the loan, like how much do they pay?

Vice Mayor Lopez: Yes. Twelve months, 24 months, 36 months? How long is your loan for?

Ms. Wexler: So there is no penalty for late payment.

Councilor Flagg: Right.

Ms. Wexler: All we ask is that our borrowers communicate with us, so if they call and say our loan payment is going to be late this month, that extends the term of the loan. But in general, we try, our goal is to keep a loan to two years. So a \$5,000 loan would be \$210.00 monthly payments, but we also look at the applicant's income and expenses and we come up together with a loan payment that they can afford, because if we give them a prohibitively high loan payment, they are going to be back in the hole again. The whole point is to help them achieve stability, so if a borrower can afford less than \$210.00, we are going to work with them for that as well. And there is no penalty.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Thank you.

Mayor Lopez: Thank you.

Councilor Flagg: Thanks.

ITEM #10 - RTA - 40TH STREET REALIGNMENT FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSENSUS

Ms. Moreno: Mayor, you asked for this item to be put on the agenda. Did you have anything specific you want to go over?

Mayor Diaz: At this time I will go ahead and just say that there is a map that shows the realignment of 40th, but this is an item that we would like to get placed on the Next RTA Project, the next 20-25 years, and just have it as a placeholder just in case we do have a business district, business park area, along the Spanish Trail property. But the 36th Street overpass has been on the books for a long time and theoretically, it's a placeholder for that amount of money. What would happen is that if we go ahead and at least have the placeholder of the 40th Street Realignment, have that together with the 36th overpass, but move it over to the business area and over the railroad tracks, either at this point because it's allocated as an overpass, 36th Street overpass, it would go as the 36th overpass monies, but it would be 40th Street Realignment. But again, it's just like 22nd Street was redesigned at the last minute because of the people that were meeting better safety precautions when it was installed, and the 22nd overpass. So I would suggest that we do keep the money as a placeholder for the 40th Street Realignment for the Next projects.

Ms. Moreno: Thank you, Mayor. For Mayor and Council, our Planning Director Josue Licea is going to hand out a list of Staff recommendations. We also invited Rick Ellis here, who is here with RTA to help answer some questions, because we realize there are probably some questions he could help the Council with, if there are any additional questions with Josue Licea's report. While I realize the benefit of RTA is for regional transportation, I think the focus here in South Tucson is for what is best for South Tucson.

Councilor Flagg: Thank you.

Ms. Moreno: I don't know how much to express that because I know that these are long term goals, but there is so much need in South Tucson and it is a lot of money that is being looked at, so I really want Council to be mindful of it and I know it's a short time here, but Josue job is to go back tomorrow, to go back to TMC, the Transportation Management Committee, what is it?

Mr. Licea: Technical Management Committee.

Ms. Moreno: Technical Management Committee to go back with a consensus of the Council, so he will share with you what he has prepared and what we will do as Staff, and what we would be recommending to Council and he can take it from there.

Mr. Licea: Alright, thank you. Thank you, Veronica, good evening, Mayor and Council. You know, there has been a lot of conversations with colleagues at the RTA level and here at Staff level also, just considering, in addition to what Mayor Diaz mentioned just right now about the 40th Street Project as a placeholder, but I figured it is good to include that project in something for everybody to discuss here, as well as other potential projects to propose. As you know, there has been in the past decades and even in more recent years, there's been considerations for big ticket projects, specifically some overpass projects at 36th Street and 40th Street. I just figured this would be the right time, you know, there's a lot of discussion going on at the PAG level for the RTA Next proposal that will be coming to the voters here in the next year or two. So, I put together a short list of potential projects that you may want to consider to propose for this next exercise at the RTA level. There are three big ticket items at the old railway corridor element, if you want to check those out, I'll give you a few minutes to look at those. And then down on the safety element and active transportation element, we've got more of the local level projects where there would be more of the organization and safety improvements. It talks about your sidewalks, lighting, road repair. And then farther down you've got the transit element, where we've got the proposal to continue to expand the South Tucson transit services for our bus riders down here locally. So with that being said, take a look at it. Let me know what you guys think. I don't think we could take official action on this, it would just be consensus for me to take over to the TMC committee tomorrow. If you have any technical questions, we also have a gentleman here who is joining us from PAG who is a little more well-versed than I am in the process. When you get to the more technical aspect of it, he can certainly help us answer any questions you may have.

Councilor Flagg: Do you personally feel aggravated or uptight because you have to go to this meeting tomorrow, and are they going to say, what do you want, Josue? I mean, is that a thing for you?

Mr. Licea: No, not really, it's ok. I just think the whole process is a little difficult as it is, and the whole PAG structure is a very big structure, it's convoluted, it is a little difficult to understand as well. So I am trying to wrap my head around it. I've come a long, long ways to where we are at right now, but I'm finally getting the hang of it. I'm not an expert at it, but definitely better now than I was about six or seven months ago. I'm starting to understand where we're at right now. There's two things going on right now, well, not two things, but just something to consider. Again, this is not for our current PAG monies, Transportation Improvement fund that we have right now, 2022 - 2026. That one is already in South Tucson's books for us to complete those projects. This proposal is for the next Board of Election where PAG will bring a list of projects, which will include what you decide tonight, in addition to what the regions of other jurisdictions have put together for the voters to consider which will be at a half a cent sales tax increase. So all these projects are going to

become part of a bigger proposal that will be up to the voters sometime later this year or early next year. Again, feel free to ask me questions because I'm not sure if I'm making sense to you guys. This is just something that will be a package for voter proposal. So this is basically trying to put something on paper for us for the voters to consider on the voter proposal.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, I have a question. On the 36th overpass, that's part of the last voter approved bonds, right?

Mr. Licea: No. It was proposed but not in the TIP Project and as far as I know it's been discussed and it was in the past RTA Next plans, but as we discussed in the last couple of Council meetings, I believe it was consensus that the City did not want to proceed with that project, with the 36th Street overpass project.

Mayor Diaz: I didn't have consensus with that. Do you think it's a placeholder for the money even though the project itself might change in respect to being something else, but the money needs to be at least a placeholder along with the 40th Street Realignment. Those monies can be changed into something else. As the project looks at \$154 million, this list I believe will not be consensus by the rest of the jurisdictions other than the fact that they will need the money also. So if we don't have two big projects that we can use as a placeholder, we won't get our list accepted by the next TIP meeting that you are going to, or whatever. And that leads to Brian's question, how do you feel about that, you know, we compete with the other jurisdictions. The other jurisdictions, of course, the City of Tucson is a big player and if they see we are going to take a pretty big chunk of their money, they are going to put up a fight and not pass our whatever, \$112 million.

Mr. Licea: Let me clarify that, excuse me. Let me clarify that. So, this proposal, it's just a list, it's just a total amount of projects, but we're not going for all these projects here. Actually, I guess I should clarify that. We are trying to stay more or less around the dollar amount of what was recommended by the Citizens Advisory Committee. About a month or two ago they recommended South Tucson put a placeholder of about \$35 million. So again, these projects, I'm just showing you some history of what has been brought up in the past, but obviously it is not my intention to have us propose this full list to PAG of a dollar amount of \$154 million, no. My intent is for the Council to review this and identify which projects you guys want to send out there. We could cross them out right now; we could do that exercise, then I could take that out to the meeting tomorrow. My personal recommendation, I like the local projects, the safety element and the transportation element project, and I also see the need for the transit services expansion and operations for the next 20 years.

Mayor Diaz: Is there opposition in regard to the 36th bike path that you know of?

Ms. Licea: Yes. I believe I noticed there is some members of the community that do not like that project, but on the other side, too, there's also community members that do like it. All the community outreach in the beginning that we have done so far, it generally has been positive for that project, yes.

Mayor Diaz: So excuse me if I keep going, as long as the 40th Street Realignment, that would give access to the 36th bike path, so it's kind of one of those trade-offs between the two, out of the 40th Street Realignment from 6th to 4th Avenue, and of course this says 36th is the greenway, which will also require some areas to do. So it's a trade off between the two, I would say, the 40th Street Realignment and the 36th Street bike path can be worked together, especially if you use the placeholder of 36th Street monies, that \$56, which was discussed and is kind of a more or less has been a placeholder in discussions, so to me, and again, it is my opinion, and the opinion that these smaller projects, correct me if I am wrong, can be administratively changed between

programs in the TIP. In other words, if you show that these smaller projects, the \$17 million part within the \$112 million, I think administratively you could work those in there.

City Attorney Paladini: Mayor if I could clarify, once the voters approve a project, let's say it's the 40th Street project, that can't be changed unless, a couple options: one is you have to bring it back to the voters to change that because it's a bond issuance, where the second is if it is 100 percent within the City of South Tucson, then you could change it as long as the City of South Tucson absorbs all the additional costs involved in making that change. Let me just read the email from Farhad to you, and it says: The 40th Street alternative would have greater opportunities for additional commercial corridor connecting the Marketplace to 6th Avenue. The Marketplace is the Walmart in Tucson, but it creates an opportunity from 6th Avenue to make it easier to get to Walmart in Tucson, is what it appears. So, once that is approved on the bond list, you can't change it without going to the voters because the project is not wholly within the City of Tucson. So, you commit to 40th Street as your proposed project because it is multi-jurisdictional, in order to change it, you are going to have to go back to the voters. If you do projects, if you have approved the bond list or project list for the vote, as projects strictly within the City, then you can change those without going to the voters as long as South Tucson picks up the tab for any additional costs. That's what the statute says about Regional Transportation Authority votes and bonds. So I would just advise you to be careful about supporting the 40th Street alternative if that's not what you want. That's going to be difficult to change because just going back to the voters and having the voters change it is a whole process.

Councilor Aguirre: Thank you for that clarification. Yeah, I'm glad you clarified that because that was the impression I was under, that once it was voted on it couldn't be changed. And from what I understand, the recommendation that we want to give to the RTA is for a placeholder for about \$35 million.

Mr. Licea: More or less, yes.

Councilor Aguirre: More or less, right, so these two big ticket items that we see at the top, either one of those two items is going to drain all of that. It's going to be above that budget. Thinking about what our City Manager said at the beginning of this, and thinking about what is best for our community and what serves South Tucson best, it's not a road directing traffic out of here and into a store in Tucson. And I've gotten a lot of mixed feelings about 36th Street overpass from the community, and so I think there should be a greater focus on the safety elements and active transportation within the City of South Tucson, personally, and the transit element is very important for our residents in South Tucson. We highly depend on public transit. So, moving forward, I think as a City we need to be very mindful of what the needs of our community is, and making sure the projects we pick to add up to this \$35 million are going to best serve our community. And also thinking forward about the development that we are looking to do in the slum and blighted areas of the southern corridor of South Tucson, a lot of that development, the development of 36th and 40th Street, we can work that into those development plans. So I don't see why we would take money that we could use for other parts of our City, you know, when we can have other funding later on down the road to work on those areas.

Councilor Flagg: I think it's a waste of, well first of all, you think RTA Next will even pass? I mean, there's a lot of people that are dissatisfied with how the RTA's run. Tim Stellar of the Star wrote a column all about it a couple Sunday's ago, and you know, just sit there looking now, if you are a betting man, you're going to bet on that to pass? Like, I don't think so. That's one thing. Maybe we should just be no on RTA Next because the RTA soaks everybody for a half cent, and then do they serve the inner cities? Do they serve the urban places, or do they serve the perimeter of Tucson? And like, put in a bunch of fancy stuff for the perimeter that

doesn't help us. And it is car centered, and in an era of global, like climate change and all that, like people just have to get out of their cars and get onto the damn bus and find other ways to travel. So, if you just look at South Tucson right now, what serves our population is the bus, is transit, and I think that needs to be funded and it needs to be kept free. Granted, there needs to be more security put into the bus system, like the teamsters who are the bus drivers would tell you, but that's the big issue I think for South Tucson, is what really serves our population. And in terms of a bridge over 36th or a bridge from 40th, I mean, right now from 36th you can look over and see the freeway and so you don't need like more bridges and more roads going through there than we have right now. That's not going to serve our community. And you know, if you are at the bridges and you turn on to Park, like right there where McDonald's is, and in just a few yards you are on the freeway, you're on the frontage road, it goes right to Spanish Trail and then to Food City. So there's already a frontage road that goes there. We don't need like these big concrete monstrosities. It's a waste of money. It's immoral in this time of climate change and what really serves the people that lives here now. Transit, the bus. So I think we should like check out strongly what the City of Tucson says about the RTA, because I think they have been done dirt by the RTA. And like projects that were promised to them weren't done and they have been real unhappy with the RTA, and they represent an urban area like us, so I think we need to check them out and be in solidarity with them to a large degree, and maybe we shouldn't even have RTA Next. I think we should vote no on it. And so the brother from the PAG who works for Farhad, can you tell us, do you think the City is going to be for RTA Next? I guess you don't have a crystal ball.

Mr. Ellis: I can't offer a guess on that. I think you have multiple opinions. There's a lot of diverging needs. I think as you ponder this and evaluate it, recognize that there has probably been over 1,000 projects that have been done throughout the region. Yes, some of them are the outlying areas.

Councilor Flagg: Some?

Mr. Ellis: The County, Marana, they did major roadway projects. Those are the needs. There are projects in the City of Tucson that are going to address needs as well, but we are working right now on some safety improvements with some signing. We are working with Josue to make sure we get those in place here in the upcoming months. So we focus on internal things that are the core of the City's urban centers, as well as the outlying areas. I think the big question to ponder, though, is when it doesn't. The RTA on a general rule of thumb, average math is over \$100 million a year. Where did that come from? And that's at the current (inaudible) rate, so where would that come from? Improvements are still there, now we've got this big hole that we just dug. So where would we get money for those necessary improvements? That's a big question the region is pondering that's challenging. So on top of what we don't want or what we think we need, ask, can we live without it.

Councilor Flagg: Well, if you are an urban area like the City of Tucson and us, yes, you can live without it because you're half cent isn't going to the perimeter of Tucson to build these roadways, and what we need is transit, and the inner city has been disrespected by the RTA for years now, and we haven't got what's been promised to us, and they're saying, we'll put it on RTA Next. That's not good enough. Their track record is no good, and so the City isn't stupid. The City looked out for their needs and they passed a couple different bonds for transportation. And so they proved it can be done otherwise. They don't need to bow down to the RTA if they don't have to. Like, Tim Stellar, a reporter on that, and said yeah, maybe they're stupid to go with the RTA. So it's not like we need the RTA in this town, and do we need the RTA to come in and put useless, big huge cement projects that we don't need on the south end of our town that increase cars going up and down. We need the bus is what we need here.

Mr. Ellis: You bring up some good points and I will offer a different perspective, and certainly respect your opinion. I think you would have a lot of people that would say differently. There are a lot of opinions on this. It's a polarizing issue, I can totally respect that. What every jurisdiction needs, what individual residents, citizens and motorists need are all different and what we are trying to do is find that sweet spot balance. What makes everything better? Not a little better, not a lot better, what makes it better overall for the region as a whole. And that's a challenge. If it was a piece of cake, we would have done this five years ago. We have a target election date that the Board has established of Spring of '25. That's the goal, that's what we're aiming for, so that we can continue to carry forward. The ultimate mix and match of the projects, the categorical, the named ones, the ones that would be open for opportunities as those arise, they're out there too, and that is being debated and discussed. I will say that the only projects that have been deferred, and that's a specific phrase that the Board has used, are for projects that the jurisdictions offered up. I would counter that the RTA has not shirked its responsibilities. There have been changes and modifications and those can be done by the Board at the sight of those, and it can also be sent back to the voters.

Councilor Flagg: So they shirked their responsibilities on 1st and Grant, right?

Mayor Diaz: I'll interject since information, too, is the fact that public transportation is not really a go in this City because of the fact that you've got different types of weather and people are not going to sit out there in 110-degree weather. So the ridership falls, and the ridership picks up a little bit in respect to being the spring and the autumn. So the winters and the summers which tend to be either longer or shorter are the causes of public transportation not having enough ridership and it's causing them a big problem. In fact, their contract now that is being negotiated eliminates the routes because of the fact that the ridership has fallen so far.

Councilor Flagg: That's not true.

Mayor Diaz: It is.

Councilor Flagg: You've got that all wrong, man.

Mayor Diaz: Wait a minute, let me finish my point, let me finish my point. The fact that other places, and I'm talking about Phoenix and stuff like that, have ridership also decline. Public transportation is on the decline everywhere.

Councilor Flagg: No.

Mayor Diaz: They have different parking areas now where they are building more and more parking areas for automobiles, electrical rechargers and stuff like that for the EVP's and stuff. So it's like you are saying, we don't have a crystal ball whether it is going to be good or bad, but at least the forecast for stuff like this from the RTA is pretty good. I believe that even if you just look at the forecast of what the RTA has done and will be able to do with the half cent tax or proposal going along with the bond, or going along with the Next project, is that the mixture of those projects will help overall Pima County.

Councilor Aguirre: Mayor, it's really disturbing that you think people have the luxury to decide not to ride the bus when they need to get to work or to get their kids to school, or to get to a doctor's appointment. The routes in South Tucson are some of the heaviest used routes in all of the routes of Tucson.

Councilor Flagg: Yes.

Councilor Aguirre: Our residents depend on the bus heavily.

Councilor Flagg: Thank you.

Councilor Valenzuela: Statistics, where is he getting statistics?

Councilor Aguirre: Yeah, so I don't know where you got the statistics from. I was on the Tucson Bus Riders Union. I know for a fact that South Tucson routes are some of the heaviest used bus routes in the City. On top of that, a lot of the cause in drops in ridership have to do with car-oriented development, just like you said, building more and more parking lots. In the cities where there has been investment in developing their transit, you can see ridership skyrocket. When people can choose, when people have the choice, when those people can choose to use the system because it's a great system, that's when you increase ridership.

Councilor Flagg: Thank you.

Councilor Aguirre: The people that need it are still going to need it and they are going to be forced to be out there. And guess what, we are going to keep cutting back on that? No, I don't think so. I am going to support more transit for our community.

Mayor Diaz: I'm not saying not to support that. What I am saying is that the Next project will not pass just like Brian says because of the fact that people are really looking at all of the aspects of the RTA and their projects and projects not being done, so the administration is really looking into why won't it pass, and how can we make it pass. And the money, again, yes, is going to be allocated to, if you want all these little projects to be allocated to, it's not going to happen because the whole bond is not going to pass.

Mr. Ellis: I think you are all hitting upon key things which is there are multiple needs, and that's the beauty of why the RTA, that their current plan passed, is that it is diverse and it was widespread and everything got better. Roadway functions and needs, we have needs for roadway improvements; we can't ignore it. We were able to allocate funds for that. We have transit needs. We have allocated funding for that, bike, ped, safety, wildlife, environment. The list goes on and on; everything got the benefit. And that diversity of the plan and that balance of the plan is what got us the first time, that was the brilliance behind it. The residents all got something, somehow, some way. Was it exactly what everybody totally wanted? No, but there's give and take and that's the same exercise we are going through now. What's that right balance that's going to help all aspects improve. How do we increase transit ridership? How do we improve investment at a higher level, and at the same time, we also have roadway aspect of it.

Councilor Flagg: One problem that I know gets raised in the City of Tucson is that you are only dealing with the big streets, the arterials, and there's all these other streets that has holes, and the RTA refuses to like put money into maintaining regular streets in the City. And that's another reason why I think people will vote it down. So I don't think it's as diverse as you're saying. I think like it helps big, huge road builders and the outskirts of town that are building new big, huge roads, and it doesn't deal with our city streets in the urban areas.

Mr. Ellis: I'll offer a varied perspective on that. We've got probably, I don't know if it's just as much, and the investment levels are different, but we have a number of bike boulevard projects that we are funding in addition to the big roadway elements. So we are making sure that we cover bike, ped and all other modes of transit as well as the roadway aspect of it.

Councilor Flagg: Well, you'd better. It's the least you can do.

Mr. Ellis: We can do that. As far as the overall, the original plan did not include any pavement preservation. We believe we can't do that.

Mayor Diaz: Right.

Councilor Flagg: Yeah, you can.

Mr. Ellis: Now the Next Plan is open for discussion, but the Board is also saying, ok, that's also a shared responsibility with the jurisdictions. You need to recognize that, so yes, you are right. It's a need. Whose investment pays for that and where does that money come from is a challenge on that. So the City has advocated for a pavement preservation program. We will see how that discussion goes. Ultimately the Board has to make that decision, which your Mayor is a member of. So that is being discussed, being evaluated, pros, cons.

Councilor Flagg: He's one of seven people.

Mayor Diaz: So I would like to add to that, the fact that once the project is handed over to the City, the City is responsible for it. That's correct. You mentioned the jurisdictions, so the roadways are being built, they are built by the RTA or helped with the RTA. Those roads belong to the City and it is up to the City to maintain them. And my biggest problem with some of that is the fact that the signs and some of the stuff that has been bought by the RTA and given to the cities, that the cities are not taking well care of those signs and stuff. Some of them are intersection, some are street lights, some of them are all kinds of signs and lineage that are around the City of Tucson, and they get knocked down every three weeks. So the main issue is not, it's really quite time consuming and money consuming also once the City takes over one of these projects, so yes, I can understand why the City is upset that the RTA doesn't give them the money to fix the roads, but they actually accept that the roads are dedicated roads for themselves or again, for the public interest, you know. So, and really we are looking at the bonds passing or not passing and the increase in the tax.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, I would like to recommend that we push this project forward. In conversation with some community members, I believe that our next RTA Next proposal should include strong safety processes and the transit element as presented by our City Planner. So that's where I stand, and I think that we should just move forward with this proposal. After all, it is going to be up to the voters to decide what they want and let's take this forward instead of us fighting each other and disagree or agree. Let the voters take a vote and let's just go forward. That's all I have, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Ms. Moreno: If I can just clarify, Mayor, Vice Mayor Lopez, so the Council can weigh in if they want to or support, so we could just say it now. So what you are saying is you didn't mention any of the roadways corridor elements, so what you are looking to support with is the list in front of you, which is broken down by title. Safety element and active transportation element, and then the second part was the transit element. Just these two only.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Yeah.

Ms. Moreno: Right?

Councilor Flagg: That's what he said.

Ms. Moreno: I just wanted to make sure of that.

Mayor Diaz: I think we have good direction as far as reporting it at the meeting tomorrow.

Mr. Licea: Yes.

Councilor Flagg: Do you feel comfortable tomorrow with that meeting? What are you going to tell them?

City Attorney Paladini: Can I just back up a little bit, Vice Mayor. It's agendaized for consensus and that sort of means that the Council should make some sort of decision, whether you vote on it or you raise your hand, you nod. So the Vice Mayor's suggestion or position is to send Josue forward tomorrow with the City of South Tucson supporting those projects listed under safety element and active transportation and transit element. So I guess the question to reach consensus is, who supports that and who does not. That's what this is agendaized for, is there across the board consensus, is there majority consensus. So I think that is what we need to know before we go any further.

Councilor Flagg: Do you think it should be a motion?

City Attorney Paladini: Well, I think no, because this is just direction to Staff, but I think what Staff needs to know is, is that just the Vice Mayor's position or does the rest of the Council agree with that, or where is this at?

Councilor Flagg: I think it's stronger if it should be a motion,, so I'd like to move that what Herman said, that's what we should put forward to you to take to the Technical Committee tomorrow. Yeah, and then our Mayor will vote to that, to what this motion is. So I would like to move that we accept what Herman said and do the transit and the safety things.

Mayor Diaz: That goes to the Committee, though. What I vote is the Next project.

Councilor Flagg: I think you need to vote what the Council makes a motion on and pass this right now, that's what you need to do. You can't go off as the Lone Ranger.

Mayor Diaz: No, I'm not, I'm asking that -

Councilor Valenzuela: So it has to go through a process the TMC, right, so once it goes to the TMC and then it's voted on, then Mayor will vote at the PAG/RTA Board meeting.

Councilor Aguirre: Right.

Councilor Valenzuela: So, it still first has to pass the TMC.

Councilor Flagg: Yeah.

Councilor Valenzuela: And if it does,

Councilor Flagg: We expect you to vote for it.

Mayor Diaz: Yeah, I understand that.

Councilor Flagg: Ok.

Mayor Diaz: Is the vote at the RTA Board, isn't that the whole Next project?

City Attorney Paladini: So tomorrow's meeting, at the last Board meeting in December, the Board took the two options that were delivered by the Citizens Committee. They were the ones officially delegated the responsibility of delivering a draft plan to their consideration. CAC delivered two options: the Board said take those to TMC now with input from others, combine those into a practical single plan for them to evaluate at their Board meeting next week. They met on January 4th, couldn't come up with any final decision, and agreed they will meet tomorrow to try to work through and come up with a single proposal that will be presented to the Board next Thursday. That proposal will consist of whatever make up all the various jurisdictions' members and representatives come up with; roadway, transit, administrative, categorical, whatever degree that is in there.

Mayor Diaz: So I'm voting on the whole thing.

City Attorney Paladini: So that will be in front of the Board. That's the plan Thursday, next week. Tomorrow's discussion is input to help craft that, so the one you want to see brought forth for this community as input would be considered along with other discussion from the other members as well.

Councilor Valenzuela: Mayor.

Mayor Diaz: Yes.

Councilor Valenzuela: Just to clarify, the CAC basically proposed this, right, then they just put as a placeholder for further discussion, and so you have consensus or direction to present this to the TMC tomorrow, and then next Thursday the Board will, the RTA Board will vote on it? Am I getting this correct?

City Attorney Paladini: So the two encompassing plan options, they are the whole \$2.34 billion. That's the price tag we are working from. It includes roadway, transit, safety and active modes, environment, administrative costs, because that is all part of the plan. We have two variations on that that have been developed, and now the Technical Management Committee, tomorrow's meeting, has been tasked with taking those, refining that, combining and making sure that we come to a singular crafted proposal for consideration by the Board. It's not a rubber stamp. Next Thursday will be discussion, I'm sure, about what did you give us, what did you leave off, what do we got, what don't we have. So that's going to be the discussion I envision next Thursday, at which time they will ultimately decide, do we like this? We like it but we want more work done, or keep trying.

Councilor Valenzuela: Ok.

City Attorney Paladini: Does that answer your question?

Councilor Valenzuela: Yes, it does.

Councilor Flagg: Paul, one other thing. The Chair of the Citizens Advisory Council is in the audience. You might want to ask her if she's got anything to add that we are missing. I guess it's your prerogative, Carolyn Campbell.

Mayor Diaz: Carolyn, would you like to say some good words?

Ms. Campbell: Yes, sure. Do you want me to stand here?

Councilor Valenzuela: We can hear you, yeah.

Ms. Campbell: Thank you. I just want to clarify a couple of things. My name is Carolyn Campbell, and I am Vice Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee. We've been looking at these various projects and these various elements for almost six years now. The feedback I got from the City of Tucson in talking with officials was that this project that had just been sitting on the RTA list on the books was really no longer a popular project for the City of South Tucson, and so the Citizens Advisory Committee in getting feedback looked at safety and active transportation and of course transit is what it seems that was needed in South Tucson, but we don't know what that is. The Citizens Committee is done and all the projects, all jurisdictions have been specific about what projects they want to see from their jurisdiction, except for South Tucson. And the reason is, we really should have been doing this for six years, not after the CAC is not meeting anymore. The Technical team, now the Citizens Committee, isn't going to be the plan that the Board votes on, the Technical people are the ones that are doing the final list, but it is based on work that we did at least. However, South Tucson, we really want to see projects that South Tucson wants to see, and unfortunately, it would have been nice for everybody to be talking to the citizens for the last six years.

Councilor Flagg: Yeah.

Ms. Campbell: But it was not a very good process in my opinion. We were very, very stifled, not really focusing on transit and active safety particularly because of what's going on out there on the roads with every jurisdiction.

Councilor Flagg: Yeah.

Ms. Campbell: So Josue has the burden, I guess, to find out what you know about your City residents may want, and then just as an editorial comment, you can also vote or campaign against it if you don't like what you see, but I think you should at least have projects in here for the citizens of South Tucson and that's what we're hoping, you know, that you can put in there tomorrow for the Board.

Councilor Valenzuela: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Thank you very much.

Councilor Flagg: So do we call the question?

Councilor Valenzuela: Do we have a Motion and a Second?

City Attorney Paladini: So, Councilor Flagg I guess wants to make a motion, which he did, and so if you want to go that route, then you need a Second, and then you need to vote on it, and that would give direction to Josue for tomorrow's meeting as to what the City of South Tucson supports in the way of projects for RTA Next.

Vice Mayor Lopez: I Second the Motion.

Councilor Flagg: Right on.

Mayor Diaz: So who made the Motion?

Councilor Flagg: Me.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Oh, I made the Motion.

Councilor Flagg: You were the brains of the operation and then I made the Motion and then you Seconded it.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Thank you.

Mayor Diaz: There's a Motion and Second. Roll Call (by Ms. Moreno).

Vice Mayor Lopez: Yes.

Acting Mayor Rogers: I want to know what the Motion says.

City Attorney Paladini: The Motion is to direct your Staff to go to the Technical Management Committee tomorrow in support of and communicate South Tucson's support of those projects listed on this document under safety element, active transportation element, and transit element to the tune of about \$44 million.

Acting Mayor Rogers: That's good for the Minutes.

City Attorney Paladini: That's a summary of the motion.

Councilor Flagg: Right.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Thank you.

Ms. Moreno: Back to Roll Call.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Yes.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Aye.

Councilor Romero: Yes.

Mayor Diaz: No.

Councilor Flagg: Yes.

Councilor Aguirre: Yes.

Councilor Valenzuela: Yes.

Mr. Licea: Thank you.

Councilor Aguirre: Thank you.

Councilor Valenzuela: Thank you.

Councilor Flagg: So the Motion passes 6-1, right?

Ms. Moreno: Yes, correct.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, I meant to ask you, how are you going to vote on this since you voted no?

Mayor Diaz: Wait a minute, I am going to vote on the overall RTA proposal, not this particular one. So these items are in there, of course, my vote -

Vice Mayor Lopez: You didn't answer my question. Are you for it or against it?

Mayor Diaz: I'm against it because look at what we are planning on doing, you know. We can get the money to do all this other stuff just by that. What we plan on doing here is a business corridor, so I don't understand you guys.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Look, all we have is a bunch of empty properties that they want to build a road on. That's how I see it. Empty properties that may help our economic development in the future but right now we don't have nothing.

Councilor Flagg: Thank you, yes.

Vice Mayor Lopez: So let's do something about the future, not what's currently happening within the next year or two. This is something in the future, because these projects are not going to be started or even finished overnight. They are going to take several years. You and I will be out of office and somebody else is going to have to carry the legacy.

Mayor Diaz: So you lose a business corridor.

Councilor Valenzuela: We have a business corridor and we are discussing the redevelopment of that whole corridor and that is something that we can negotiate in the future, a bridge, the realignment. It is something to discuss or we can use this money for the safety of our community, for the needs of our community now. So we have to think of the people living here now, not twenty years from now.

Councilor Flagg: Yes.

Mayor Diaz: The Broadway corridor took 22 years to get completed. Anyway, ok, so we are done with #10.

ITEM #11 - 2014 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN FOR DISCUSSION AND REVIEW

Mayor Diaz: I put it on the agenda for the fact that I believe it was approved way back in 2014. I couldn't get into the Minutes exactly to find out if that was true or not. This 5-year strategic plan really discusses the workings of a Council and the Staff behind it, and we need to know, how we need to know it and so forth. So that's a working document in respect to being able, that we get the information that we need to see that we are on the right track to complete, to at least agree on some of these items that need to get done. I think Acting Mayor Rita Rogers has indicated some of the lacking that the strategic plan does cover, and that is appraisals and so forth. We really need information on how the City Staff is working and where weaknesses are and where strong nature is, so I put it up for discussion as far as, I don't know if you guys were able to read it or look at it, or even agree with that, but it has various topics in there that do need updating, and that's why it's up for discussion and review. At this time, if there is discussion and review, the point here would be to say that if we don't have any discussion or anybody wants to review it, I asked it to be put on the next agenda as continuing with the 5-year strategic plan with corrections.

Ms. Moreno: Mayor, if I may, and Council. I went back to look at the record and this is about a draft document and it's a 5-year strategic plan. So it would have expired in 2019, had it been formally adopted. As you can see it's in the draft. As a matter of fact, if you look at the page where it says Mayor's message there, it is blank because it was never done. But this plan in and of itself was never adopted in final draft form. It's still in draft form, so it was never adopted, so this was a working document. But needless to say, I just want to point out that I did check my Minutes yesterday and I have no final approved Strategic Plan from 2014.

Councilor Flagg: How come it didn't, did it just got forgotten or something? You were probably here.

Mayor Diaz: I think it was a time the City Manager got the heart attack.

Ms. Moreno: And he didn't come back.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, it's an outdated document and it feels you are out of touch because a whole decade or more has passed and the (inaudible) has passed, our City has changed a lot, and whatever that was done 10, 15, 20 years ago in a written document may not suit us at this present time. The simple reason is because procedures and everything else has changed. This I would consider an obsolete document.

Mayor Diaz: Ok. Councilor Valenzuela.

Councilor Valenzuela: I do appreciate the initiative, Paul, to present some type of solution and plan. I personally like them, but like Vice Mayor Lopez said, this is an outdated draft. The current Staff is very talented. We have an existing IGA with Pima County, and they could help us create another plan. We also have, I think it was maybe last year, two years ago, the NRSA Plan was created.

Councilor Flagg: Yeah.

Councilor Valenzuela: Which covers a lot of stuff that was in here so maybe we can put that to use. I do appreciate the initiative, though.

Mayor Diaz: I really do think that we need a strategic plan of some kind, whether this is a document that you can look at and compare to what we can come up with Pima County through the IGA, but we do need a strategic plan. The City needs it, not just us, but the City needs it to understand that we are on top of stuff that they want us to do, and the only way we can prove to them that we are is through a strategic plan.

Councilor Valenzuela: So why don't we get our current Staff to propose something in the next Council meeting and we can go from there.

Councilor Flagg: You know, what you said makes sense if we were in Tucson or Pima County or some big city in Phoenix, but here they're low on Staff. Is that really what we want our Staff doing? I don't know, like the City has plan after plan after strategic plan, you know, but we only have a little bit of Staff, so is that really the best use of our Staff time? I really don't know.

Councilor Valenzuela: Well, I think that the ground work has already been done by the NRSA. It's like basically highlighting some of those proposals, I guess. I'm not sure.

Mayor Diaz: But the whole thing, though, is that if we don't start something, it will never get done. When we start something, once it is completed first round, it won't take very long to do a second or third round.

Councilor Valenzuela: Well, let's give them direction, propose something at the next meeting. It doesn't have to be something complicated, it could be a start. It could be the start of a conversation.

Mayor Diaz: That's why it was up for discussion and review. The fact is that we do need something. Is it going to give her enough time to do that proposal, or her proposal to indicate that we need to go to Pima County for help in respect to draw something up that would do our small city correctly.

Councilor Valenzuela: Let's have them sit on it. I don't think they were prepared for this. Maybe we can recognize something at our next Council meeting.

Councilor Flagg: Our Staff.

Councilor Valenzuela: Our Staff, yeah.

Councilor Flagg: And you know, we are going to Pima County for how many different things, so to go one more time for this, I don't know. But we can talk about it, right?

Councilor Valenzuela: There's already an existing IGA that would help with, you know, economic development. Let's use that tool and like I said, they have a lot of talent and they want to. They seek direction and we need to be together on this. Is this not direction, just discussion for this Item?

Ms. Moreno: If I may, Mayor and Council. Can you give us more time at the next Council meeting to come up to you so we can look into it a little more so Council can make recommendations so we can come back to you at a future meeting.

City Attorney Paladini: One suggestion I would make is we can bring you samples of other municipal strategic plans from cities and towns that are varied in, we're not talking Phoenix/Tucson size, you know, but you can see what other people have done more recently. And I can tell you from my experience they don't look like that book that you have here, the one that is from 2014. They're much more brief and big-picture and don't get into that level of detail. You're talking strategy which is the big picture. So one of the things that I think would be helpful for you to see is what other cities and towns have done in terms of strategic plans. Not to say that you are going to adopt the same goals or objectives or strategies, but just sort of a form. I think that would help.

Mayor Diaz: Ok. I don't want it to get lost.

City Attorney Paladini: Well, that's exactly the point. I think where cities and towns have moved to is relatively short documents, big picture, so it's something you can flip to and then go to rather than have a 40 or 50- or 60-page document that nobody is going to read. But again, what I'm suggesting is we bring you samples of what other strategic plans look like, not necessarily suggesting you adopt what they're doing, because every place is going to be unique. That may help you just to kind of see the template of what other people have done.

Mayor Diaz: I would suggest that we combine those along with your suggestion of getting examples of what other cities have done.

Acting Mayor Rogers: He's got his hand up.

Councilor Valenzuela: Why don't we revisit the retreat and have this discussion there. We haven't done it yet and we would like to bring this back so we can come up with some options but at this point, it's just an option.

Mayor Diaz: Josue.

Mr. Licea: We've still got some time and I'll just recommend that when we do that to this point, I personally would recommend when we do go out to do this new plan, you know, because we do need to look at our general city plan, it's got to be community heavy, engagement, and outreach. We definitely want some input from the community. That's it. We need to get some feedback with the community and where they see the City going in the future.

Councilor Valenzuela: Josue, did you get a chance to read the NRSA Comprehensive Plan?

Mr. Licea: I haven't.

Councilor Valenzuela: That has a lot of community engagement, and I see a lot of them that my neighbors attended. and we went to a lot of big events and that was great engagement and good feedback, too.

Mayor Diaz: Again, that's going to be part of the information that everybody gets.

Councilor Valenzuela: Yeah, but that lays the groundwork for everybody.

Ms. Licea: Let me just follow up on that.

Mayor Diaz: I think it's still just the fact that we are going to direct the Interim City Manager to go ahead and work with the Staff to generate this. It's not his responsibility, it's going to be hers, you know, that they work together and bring us something forward, combining with other cities, all that information. Ok?

Councilor Valenzuela: Ok.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Thank you.

Mayor Diaz: Alright, thank you. Item #12.

ITEM #12 - PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION

Mayor Diaz: I bring this item back up because we do have one vacancy to fill in regards to what the existing members are.

Acting Mayor Rogers: I'm ready to move. Mr. Mayor, I would like to move for Melissa Brown to be that fifth person on the Planning and Zoning Committee.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Second.

Mayor Diaz: It's been Moved and Seconded. Is there any discussion?

Councilor Valenzuela: Melissa Brown is the one applicant, the one that submitted the application?

Mayor Diaz: Right.

Councilor Valenzuela: Thank you, just making sure.

Mayor Diaz: Roll Call (by Ms. Moreno):

Vice Mayor Lopez. Yes.

Acting Mayor Rogers. Aye.

Councilor Romero. Aye.

Mayor Diaz. Aye.

Councilor Flagg. Aye.

Councilor Aguirre. Aye.

Councilor Valenzuela. Aye.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you. Item #13.

ITEM #13 - BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION

Mayor Diaz: Did we get any applicants for that yet?

Ms. Moreno: No, Mayor, not at this time, we have not.

Mayor Diaz: Ok. Tom Boyle, Manny Valencia and Elizar de la Cruz.

Acting Mayor Rogers: We need two more.

Mayor Diaz: We need two more to make a vote. Thank you. We will go ahead and there's no direction, so we will wait for the applicants, so that is complete. The next is Item #14.

ITEM #14 - EXECUTIVE SESSION - A.R.S. Sections 38-431.03 A.3 AND A.4 DISCUSSION OR CONSULTATION FOR LEGAL ADVICE WITH THE ATTORNEY OR ATTORNEYS OF THE PUBLIC BODY; DISCUSSION OR CONSULTATION WITH THE CITY'S ATTORNEYS REGARDING THE CITY'S POSITION REGARDING CONTRACTS THAT ARE THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS

1. Negotiations of Contract for Fire and Emergency Medical Services

Mayor Diaz: We need a motion to go into Executive Session.

Councilor Flagg: So moved.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Second.

Mayor Diaz: We are in Executive Session.

City Council exited Regular Session and Enters into Executive Session.

City Council existed Executive Session and Entered into Regular Session for Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 08:20 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 16th day of January, 2024. I further certify the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Veronica Moreno, City Clerk