

MINUTES OF THE PEORIA CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF PEORIA, ARIZONA
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL
June 3, 2008

A **Special Study Session Meeting** of the City Council of the City of Peoria, Arizona was convened at 8401 West Monroe Street in open and public session at 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Bob Barrett; Vice Mayor Cathy Carlat; Councilmembers Ron Aames, Joan Evans, Vicki Hunt, Carlo Leone and Dave Pearson.

Members Absent: None

Other Municipal Officials Present: Terrence Ellis, City Manager; Carl Swenson, Deputy City Manager; Susan Thorpe, Deputy City Manager; John Wenderski, Deputy City Manager; Steve Kemp, City Attorney; Mary Jo Kief, City Clerk; Brent Mattingly, Bill Mattingly, Grady Miller, Dave Moody, Larry Ratcliff, Jeff Tyne, Glen Van Nimwegen, James Mason and Rhonda Simmons.

Audience: Approximately 45 members of the public were present.

Subject for Discussion only:

1. Arizona Public Service (APS) Transmission Corridor

Carl Swenson, Deputy City Manager, addressed the Council stating that Arizona Public Service (APS) is currently considering potential corridors for a power line between the TS-9 substation in Peoria to the TS-5 substation in Buckeye. There are two potential corridors through Peoria, one along State Route 74 (SR74) and one on the Carefree Highway alignment, three miles south of SR74. The City of Peoria believes that SR74 is the appropriate corridor for this power line. Staff has been working with APS to convince them that the Carefree Highway alignment is not the place for this power line corridor; however, APS has designated the Carefree Highway as their preferred power line corridor.

Mr. Swenson stated the City of Peoria believes SR74 is a better alternative to place a power line corridor because SR74 minimizes the impact to current and future residents and it minimizes the impact to the environment.

In support of the City of Peoria position, a coalition has been organized, which includes the Cities of Surprise and Buckeye, private land owners and neighbors.

Maher Hazine, Assistant City Engineer, described the project to be 40 miles in length and the power line poles will be dual circuit of 500kv on one side of the pole and 230kv on the other side. The structure type will be steel monopoles and 135 to 195 feet in height. Mr. Hazine stated the pole span will be between 800 and 1400 feet, with a study width of approximately 3500 feet and a right of way width of 125 to 200 feet.

Mr. Hazine explained that APS has factored in six elements when making their decision as to which route they will choose for the power line. These six elements are:

- Environmental Impact
- Public Comment
- Regulatory Approvals
- Land Acquisition
- Cost
- Engineering

Regarding the six elements APS factors, Mr. Hazine stated the following:

- Environmental – APS looks at scenic corridor, mountain preserves and Desert Open Space.
- Public Comments - Residents and developers are steadfastly opposed to the Carefree Highway alignment and Peoria has gained a strong coalition support for SR74.
- Regulatory Approval - Both routes require various regulatory approvals (federal, state, and local); SR74 requires approval from the Bureau of Land Management.
- Land Acquisition – Right-of-way (ROW) is required from both private owners and the Arizona State Land Department with additional ROW from BLM (for SR74).
- Engineering - Carefree Highway alignment has rugged terrain and limited access; both routes meet APS electrical system needs.
- Cost - SR74 cost is estimated at \$190M with potential cost savings due to possible sharing of right-of-way; Carefree Highway cost is estimated at \$200M with extra expenses possibly passed along to ratepayers.

In response to questions from Vice Mayor Carlat, Mr. Hazine stated that if APS chooses the Carefree Highway alignment, they will have to construct access roads and significantly disturb the land.

Mr. Hazine presented a visual demonstration of the terrain and route of the Carefree Highway alignment.

Steve Kemp, City Attorney, provided information regarding the corridor selection process.

John Schell, Intergovernmental Affairs Director, stated the following groups are amongst the coalition to support that SR74 is the better alignment for the power lines:

- City of Surprise
- Town of Buckeye
- Vistancia (Sunbelt Holdings)
- Saddleback Heights (Diamond Ventures)
- Vistancia Trilogy HOA
- Vistancia Village A HOA
- Vistancia Blackstone HOA

Glen Van Nimwegen, Community Development Director, addressed the Council regarding discussions City of Peoria staff has had with APS regarding the power line siting. Mr. Van Nimwegen outlined the steps the City of Peoria has taken to ensure APS is aware of the City's preferred power line siting of SR74 in lieu of the Carefree Highway alignment.

Mark Hammons, representative of the Vistancia Community, addressed the Council stating he has been working with APS to identify an area of least impact for the power lines. Mr. Hammons stated Sunbelt Holdings believes that the site with the least impact is SR74.

Lynda Reithmann, Trilogy Homeowner, addressed the Council stating that homeowners of Vistancia, Trilogy and Blackstone purchased their homes with the expectation of high property values. Ms. Reithmann stated she believes there will be no property value recovery if permanent power lines are placed on the Carefree Highway alignment. A report by the United States National Council on Radiation Protection stated there is a powerful body of impressive evidence showing that even low exposure to electromagnetic radiation has long-term effects on health. Some effects listed in the report included: Sudden Infant Death, Childhood Leukemia, changes in brain chemistry, impairment of the immune system and inhibition of melatonin production which suppresses certain cancers.

Mr. Swenson informed the Council that a Resolution is on the Regular Agenda at tonight's meeting to formally register the City of Peoria concerns and preferred alignment to APS.

Mayor Barrett summarized the Study Session by stating that the power lines cannot be buried because of the amount of power being carried on the lines. The two potential Peoria sites for the power lines are SR74 and the Carefree alignment. The City of Peoria opposes placing the power lines on the Carefree alignment. The City of Peoria is requesting that APS place the power lines on the north side of SR74. Mayor Barrett

stated the process is that APS will file its application; the application will go to the Line Siting Commission. The City of Peoria will appear at the Line Siting Commission hearing and oppose the Carefree alignment. The Line Siting Commission makes a recommendation to the Arizona Corporation Commission, who is the final decision-makers. The City of Peoria will also appear at the Arizona Corporation Commission hearing to advocate SR74 for the power line.

Adjournment:

Being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was duly adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Bob Barrett, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mary Jo Kief, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session Meeting of the City Council of Peoria, Arizona held on the 3rd day of June, 2008. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 26th day of August, 2008.

(Seal)

Mary Jo Kief, City Clerk