

MINUTES OF THE PEORIA CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF PEORIA, ARIZONA
PINE ROOM
October 21, 2008

A **Special Meeting and Study Session** of the City Council of the City of Peoria, Arizona was convened at 8401 West Monroe Street in open and public session at 4:01 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: Carl Swenson, City Manager; Susan Daluddung, Deputy City Manager; Susan K. Thorpe, Deputy City Manager; John F. Wenderski, Deputy City Manager; Mary Jo Kief, City Clerk; Ellen Van Riper, Assistant City Attorney; Grady Miller, J.P. de la Montaigne, Larry Ratcliff, Sandy Teetsel, Glen Van Nimwegen, James Mason, Rhonda Simmons, and Gina Soria.

Audience: Approximately 5-10 members of the public were present.

Note: The order in which items appear in the minutes reflects the order in which the items were discussed during the meeting, which may or may not be the order in which they appear on the agenda.

STUDY SESSION

1. Community Policing Update

Carl Swenson, City Manager, explained the Community Policing presentation was to update the Council on the Police Department's progress in implementing the Community Policing and School Resource Officer programs.

Larry Ratcliff, Chief of Police, provided a background on Community Oriented Policing (COP), which is a philosophy, proactive, and a shared responsibility with the community. He explained COP empowers officers and citizens for proactive problem-solving, as opposed to traditional policing which waits for a crime to occur.

Discussion ensued on the role of police officers. Chief Ratcliff stated officers will work with neighborhoods to become familiar with and anticipate crime trends. Additionally, officers will become community organizers to motivate residents to respond and identify problems. Chief Ratcliff explained this will be done by assigning police officers to the same districts and beats. He commented on beat ownership and a beat accountability training course.

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Vice Mayor Carlat inquired on how beat ownership relates to a data driven police force. Chief Ratcliff responded officers will begin to determine trends in their assigned beats and with assistance from the Strategic Planning Section and other officers, can anticipate when and where crimes are most likely to occur and focus within that district. He clarified officers will have a more interactive presence in the community. Susan Thorpe, Deputy City Manager, explained the Police Department has identified the percentage of available time where officers can be proactive and interactive with the neighborhoods.

In response to Councilmember Hunt, Chief Ratcliff reported lieutenants, sergeants and officers were prepared for the program with accountability training. Chief Ratcliff clarified officers are receptive to the program and will be motivated by the results.

Councilmember Pearson stated neighborhood livability should be included in the philosophy of the department and inquired on the use of code enforcement and rangers. Chief Ratcliff replied COP is a process that involves various stakeholders, including code enforcement, citizens, and businesses, to take responsibility for the quality of life in the City. He clarified there is currently enough personnel to respond to standard calls for service. Also Public Safety Officers have a non-enforcement role and provide various preventative and patrol assistance to sworn officers.

Councilmember Aames inquired on how the COP program will be measured and evaluated for success. Chief Ratcliff responded a Strategic Planning Section was created to review data that is generated from different sources within the Police Department to predict trends on neighborhood livability issues and how the neighborhood is evolving.

Rocky Smith, Deputy Police Chief, discussed the Operations Division. He noted the department reorganized in January and created a Strategic Planning Section and Community Relations Unit. Deputy Chief Smith stated police beats were re-districted and patrol personnel were re-distributed. He discussed the current allocation of personnel within the Operations Division.

Discussion ensued on the implementation of COP. Deputy Chief Smith reported on the current service levels, highlighting the overall available patrol time is about 36 percent, which is within the average among the United States. Councilmember Pearson inquired if there is any correlation to the reduction in traffic collision reports to the red light cameras. Deputy Chief Smith replied it is too early to determine and the report for the red light camera will be available at the end of the year.

Deputy Chief Smith reported on response times, highlighting priority one response times average 5.6 minutes Citywide, the lowest in five years. Overall response times have improved. Deputy Chief Smith commented on police officer staffing and noted the department is in good shape with patrol. In response to Council, Deputy Chief Smith clarified the decrease in response times is not proportional to the amount of staff. Chief Ratcliff clarified that number is calculated from the time that the call came in to the time

an officer first arrived on scene. He explained Police Departments vary on when/how response times are determined and five minutes is standard for priority one calls.

Discussion ensued on the staffing for major felony investigations, traffic services, and the Commercial Enforcement and Neighborhood Action Units. Deputy Chief Smith commented on collapsing the Commercial Enforcement and Neighborhood Action Units into a new Targeted Enforcement Unit. Their responsibilities include monitoring parolees, proactive investigation of repeat offenders, warrant round-ups, and to assist the Strategic Planning Unit. In response to Councilmember Evans regarding the Commercial Enforcement Unit, Deputy Chief Smith explained an in-depth analysis was conducted and it was determined the workload can be spread out. He stressed the district officer and the beat officer that work in those areas have a responsibility to respond to calls and get to know the business owners.

Vice Mayor Carlat inquired on opportunities for promotions. Deputy Chief Smith replied there are opportunities for promotions and the Targeted Enforcement Unit and the reorganization allows officers the opportunity to expand their career professionally, which expands their ability to be promoted.

Dee Dyson, Lieutenant, stated a mission statement and vision statement were developed for the School Resource Officer (SRO) program to encompass their responsibilities and goals.

Discussion ensued on crime and violence in schools. Lt. Dyson explained the SRO goal is to provide a safe school environment so that teachers can teach and students can learn. SRO's work closely with teachers, administrators, counselors and parents to develop problem-solving strategies for daily issues which include: cyberspace bullying, gang issues, drugs, alcohol, and vehicular accidents. Lt. Dyson stressed the importance of a safe environment which promotes learning, teaching good safety practices, helping the schools with safety enhancement, and serving as a primary resource for students who are victims of unlawful activity.

Lt. Dyson discussed officers as positive role models and introduced the officers selected for the program. Lt. Dyson provided background on each of the officers and their upcoming responsibilities in the SRO program.

Discussion ensued on the role of an SRO. Lt. Dyson explained the SRO will be in uniform or in plain clothes and armed; will be visible as a deterrent for crime; will make arrests and investigate crime; and will be a counselor and role model. The SRO team will teach and guide the students how to resolve conflict without resorting to violence. She noted the SRO program will be implemented on January 5, 2009.

In response to Council, Lt. Dyson reported one of the goals of the program will be to provide a Youth Academy in the summer months. A report will be brought back to Council a year after the commencement of the SRO program to update Council and the School Districts on the progress.

Lieutenant Richard Yost discussed the Peoria Policing Project. He stated neighborhoods are suffering from the economy and highlighted certain areas that have several vacant and repossessed homes. The Police Department responds to these neighborhoods daily with calls for service ranging from loose animals to domestic violence and homicide.

Lt. Yost reported the Policing Project is a long-term proactive program to reduce crime. The project includes an increased presence of police officers, traffic and drug-enforcement programs, and increased neighborhood involvement. He noted citizens are looking to the Police Department and City to try to improve the neighborhood. Discussion ensued on the partnerships for the Policing Project, including Neighborhood Services, Park Rangers, the Drug Enforcement Administration, schools, faith communities, and local businesses and citizens groups.

Lt. Yost highlighted several neighborhood improvement projects, including the adoption of a citizen's residence which needed repairs. Several organizations, ranging from citizen groups to businesses and neighbors, assisted in repairing the house and exhibited neighborhood pride.

2. Arts Master Plan Project

Grady Miller, Director of Communications and Public Affairs, introduced Jerry Allen with Jerry Allen and Associates and provided background on the Arts Master Plan Project.

Mr. Allen explained the purpose of an Arts Master Plan is to develop a planning tool that guides the arts portion of the City's General Plan. An Arts Master Plan involves a long-term vision for the development of the cultural life of the community. He stated every community has the right to cultural self-determination.

Discussion ensued on the methodology of the planning process. A number of strategies were devised to ensure maximum community involvement, including surveys, Town Hall meetings, focus groups, and studies. Mr. Allen reported the Peoria Arts Survey revealed 76% of Peoria residents consider the arts very important to their quality of life and 86% support more arts-related opportunities. He commented on the importance of quality art events in Peoria as they are a powerful tool for community development and pride. He highlighted the need for the development of new cultural facilities.

Mr. Allen discussed the economic impact of the arts and the role that the arts can play in developing tourism and business relocation. He noted businesses relocate based on the availability of recreational and cultural activities for their employees and commented on the opportunity to express the cultural and economic diversity of the community.

Discussion ensued on the plans for a community park. Mr. Allen encouraged creating a festival site as the central gathering place for the community. He commented on exhibition space in the City to allow opportunities to experience the creative products of the residents of Peoria. Several cities are using the development of artist live-work

spaces as a way of revitalizing their downtown.

Mr. Allen discussed the private sector with public art. He highlighted an example of cities showing private developers how they can incorporate public art into their development and offering the resources of the Arts Commission.

Mr. Allen commented on festivals, which bring communities together and provide low cost cultural opportunities for the citizens. Festivals find authenticity about what is genuine to the community and celebrate it.

Discussion ensued on arts programs in school districts. Mr. Allen stressed programs should be reinforced with support and advocacy from the City. He highlighted how children's involvement in arts follows them into adulthood. Mr. Allen noted recommendations will include/consider time for recovery in the economy to move programs forward. He discussed private funding, private individual philanthropy and corporate philanthropy.

Mr. Allen reviewed the timeline for Town Hall meetings and interviews with stakeholders. Councilmember Aames inquired if public art should be clustered in one area of the City, such as downtown, or dispersed throughout the City. Mr. Allen replied the issue will be addressed at the Town Hall meetings and noted that development of a public art collection is long-term. He recommended focusing on neighborhoods and on occasionally developing signature works that make grand statements.

Mayor Barrett adjourned the Study Session at 6:27 p.m. and convened the Special Meeting at 6:28 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed with a "C" are considered to be routine or have been previously reviewed by the City Council, and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Councilmember so requests; in which event the item will be removed from the General Order of Business, and considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda.

Mayor Barrett asked if any Councilmember wished to have an item removed from the Consent Agenda. There were no requests to remove an item from the Consent Agenda.

Motion was made by Councilmember Hunt, seconded by Councilmember Evans, to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Barrett noted the Executive Session would be held after the adjournment of the 7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting.

CONSENT – New Business:

1C Authorization to Hold an Executive Session

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03.A.3: Authorized the holding of an Executive Session for the purpose of discussion and consultation with legal counsel for legal advice regarding Grand Avenue Peoria Holdings L.L.C.

Note: Executive Session was held after the adjournment of the 7:00 p.m. Regular City Council Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was duly adjourned at 6:30 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 Special Meeting and Study Session of the City Council of Peoria, Arizona held on the 21st day of October, 2008. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 2nd day of December, 2008.

(Seal)

Mary Jo Kief, City Clerk