

**MINUTES OF THE PEORIA CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY OF PEORIA, ARIZONA  
PINE ROOM, CITY HALL  
June 2, 2009

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

**Members Absent:** Mayor Bob Barrett

**Other Municipal Officials Present:** Carl Swenson, City Manager; Susan Thorpe, Deputy City Manager; John F. Wenderski, Deputy City Manager; Steve Kemp, City Attorney; Mary Jo Kief, City Clerk; Andrew Granger, Bill Mattingly, Glen Van Nimwegen, J. P. de la Montaigne, Larry Ratcliff, Wynette Reed, and Claudia Lujan.

**Audience:** No members of the public were present.

**Note:** The order in which items appear in the minutes is not necessarily the order in which they were discussed in the meeting.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**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.

### **CONSENT – New Business:**

#### **1C Authorization to Hold an Executive Session**

Motion was made by Councilmember Aames, seconded by Councilmember Hunt, to authorize the holding of an Executive Session for the purpose of discussion with the City's attorneys in order to consider the City's position and instruct its attorneys regarding settlement discussions conducted in order to avoid litigation involving past-due water bills incurred by the Sun Harbor Community Association.

Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously 6 to 0.

**Note:** Executive Session was held after the adjournment of the 4:00 p.m. Special City Council Special Meeting and Study Session.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Being no further business to come before the Council on the Consent Agenda, Vice Mayor Evans adjourned the Special Meeting at 4:02 p.m.

Vice Mayor Evans convened the **Study Session Meeting** of the City Council of the City of Peoria, Arizona at 8401 West Monroe Street in open and public session at 4:02 p.m.

**STUDY SESSION AGENDA**

**Subjects for Discussion Only:**

1. Desert Land Conservation and Connectivity

Glen Van Nimwegen, Community Development Department Director, introduced Dave Richins, Director of the Sun Corridor Legacy Program for the Sonoran Institute; Eric Gorsegner, Associate Program Director of the Sun Corridor Legacy Program; Bob Cafarella, Preservation Division Director for the City of Scottsdale; and Dick Bowers, President of R. A. Bowers & Associates.

Mr. Bowers led the presentation and offered the following mandatory components for open space preservation:

- Clear vision
- Public passion
- Business community
- Capable and committed policy makers
- Talented staff with substantial input

Mr. Richins provided an overview of the Sonoran Institute and the Sun Corridor Legacy Program. The Sonoran Institute inspires and enables community decisions and public policies that respect the land and people of western North America. Some of the goals for the Sun Corridor Legacy Program are linking the Phoenix metro area and Tucson with commuter rail, improving the connections between the two areas and creating a model for a sustainable desert community.

Mr. Gorsegner discussed potential conservation areas in northwestern Maricopa County and presented a draft of the Sonoran Desert Protection Proposal. The first goal of the proposal is to designate additional protection on BLM (Bureau of Land Management) lands that are currently undesignated. The second goal is to preserve connectivity so that the landscape ecology remains intact.

Mr. Richins noted there are many groups working on state land reform and expressed his opinion that the most important single conservation reform that could be put in place to preserve open space in the State of Arizona is state land reform. Mr. Richins urged the Council to watch for opportunities to become associated with state trust land reform efforts.

Mr. Cafarella suggested the City of Peoria may be in a position to work with the State Land Department on a General Plan Amendment for state land.

Mr. Cafarella recapped the City of Scottsdale's experience with open space preservation. Mr. Cafarella identified the participants and criteria used in creating the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Mr. Cafarella stressed the importance of having citizens in a leadership role throughout the process.

In response to questions from Council, Mr. Bowers indicated that the City of Peoria may want to obtain input from the public regarding their beliefs concerning preservation. Mr. Bowers added that preservation is not something you do, it is something you are. Mr. Bowers commented that once a vision has been determined, the community will stand behind the policies established to protect the vision.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was duly adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

---

Bob Barrett, Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Mary Jo Kief, City Clerk

Special Meeting and Study Session Meeting Minutes  
June 2, 2009, 4:00 p.m.  
Page 4 of 4

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 2nd day of June, 2009. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 25th day of August, 2009.

(Seal)

---

Mary Jo Kief, City Clerk