

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF EL MIRAGE
EL MIRAGE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
10000 N. EL MIRAGE ROAD
6:00 PM – THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2017**

Minutes

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Lana Mook, Councilmember Bob Jones, Councilmember Roy Delgado, Councilmember Lynn Selby, Councilmember Jack Palladino, Councilmember David Shapera

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm.
Pledge of Allegiance
Moment of Silence
Silence Cell Phones & Pagers

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

E1. Consideration and action to adjourn into Executive Session to conduct candidate interviews for the open Council seat vacated by the passing of Vice Mayor Joe Ramirez on June 2, 2017

Councilor Shapera asked why Executive Session was being considered for two applicants stating he was curious because he had not experienced this in the past. Mayor Mook stated they are following prior protocol and five candidates were being interviewed in E-Session, not two. All applicants were asked if they wanted their interview in E-session or in open session as law allows and two applicants elected to have open session interviews; the five other individual interviews would be held in E-Session first.

Councilor Jones moved to adjourn into Executive Session to conduct five individual candidate interviews; seconded by Councilor Palladino. Motion carried unanimously (6/0).

Mayor Mook informed people who were not applicants that they estimated 15 minutes for each of the five applicants. She stated they estimated they should complete the E-Session and return to open session at approximately 7:00 – 7:30 PM. Applicants' names were drawn by lot to determine the order of their interview. Council moved to the adjacent conference room to conduct the E-Session. City Clerk Sharon Antes assisted and called John Livengood to be the first applicant; she called and escorted all applicants to the E-session in the order their name was drawn.

Councilor Jones moved to close the Executive Session and adjourn into Regular Session; seconded by Councilor Delgado. Motion carried unanimously (6/0).

IV. REGULAR SESSION

- A. Consideration and action to conduct two interviews by candidates requesting to be interviewed in Public Session.

Councilor Jones moved to conduct two interviews by candidates requesting to be interviewed in Public Session; seconded by Councilor Delgado. Motion carried unanimously (6/0)

Mayor Mook called Ms. Juanita Norton. Mayor Mook reported she is the first public interview by a drawing that was taken. There are 15 minutes for the interview containing five questions. She advised that each Councilor will ask one question. At the end of 15 minutes, the interview will be done and if there is time remaining from answering the five questions, a general statement may be made.

Question 1: Councilor Shapera asked what she would bring to the Council that does not currently exist.

Ms. Norton stated she has an innate ability to look at things and research, evaluate and stand up and speak about those things. I am not a rubber stamp. You have to have the courage to speak up and be the first person to open up or delve further into an issue. That is something we desperately need in our City government.

Question 2: Councilor Jones asked what she considered to be the three most critical issues that are facing our City currently.

Ms. Norton stated she read the report with the Police Department, and as a former officer, she was really appalled and concerned about some of situations that need to be addressed within our Police Department and our Fire Department. She thinks it is critical for the entire City. It is just not an issue for the Police Officers, it affects the entire community. Our safety is paramount to having an effective department, having morale happy to go out there and do the job, be well trained so that is a critical issue. Financing is always something that is part of government. Another issue is the transparency. The City of El Mirage needs to connect more with the citizens we are serving and needs to be looked at more closely. It is not "we" against "them" or "them" against the City. The City is there to serve the Citizens of El Mirage. Those are three important aspects that need to be looked at.

Question 3: Councilor Palladino asked if you could accomplish only one thing during your term on the Council, what would it be and why?

Ms. Norton stated that is a broad question so the one thing she would like to accomplish is listening to the citizens and looking at the issues and not just taking a narrow scope on how to solve various issues. There are so many things that comprise governance. Her goal would be to look at everything and not take such a narrow scope but look at the broad picture for the wellbeing and welfare of the entire City, not just one.

Question 4: Councilor Delgado asked if she has ever served on a public board, commission or committee in El Mirage and what has been your experience.

Ms. Norton stated she has not served on any City committees in the City of El Mirage although she served on the Dysart Ranchettes Irrigation Committee, an informal committee that came about due to issues regarding the irrigation canal, the ditch, the well and the rates and a proposed increase that was at that time 248%, quite a drastic increase. They Dysart Ranchettes residents met to discuss the issue and formed a committee. She was the first one who volunteered to be on that committee because she has the ability to look at issues and research. She is not afraid to delve into things and she is not afraid to speak up. Her life, as well as the lives of the people who live there, is dependent. She does not want to sit idly by to see what someone else is going to do. There were several others who initially joined but never showed up for any of the meetings. They had a lot of meetings and she did a lot of research and investigation and communicated with the City. That was her only committee within the City of El Mirage. She was on the Safety Committee for the Dysart Transportation Services. She spoke up quickly when others were afraid to speak.

Question 5: Councilor Selby asked if there was anything else she would like to tell us about why you would like to sit on City Council.

She moved to El Mirage in 2004. This is her home and she cares greatly about what happens in her community, my neighbors, my rights, my neighbors' rights, the rights of the citizens that live in other parts of the City. She has had many people throughout the City talk to her about various issues and so many people feel they don't have a voice and they may not know how to communicate so they sit by and wait for someone else to do it. I'm the person who can do it and will do it and will not shrink from it in fear. She is not here to fight with anybody but she certainly is going to communicate and express views and research, laws, what other communities have done, looking at ways to come to an agreement on an issue to get to a plausible outcome that is going to benefit everybody. She has that ability and courage to stand up. Good governance has to be about looking at the broad scope and how it is going to affect everybody, not just one group or person. She is not a rubber stamp. She will look at alternative things to be used to draw a conclusion and reach an agreement. She wants the opportunity to serve her community. She knows quite a few people by the work she does and by reaching out to others and one of the things is, people trust her. She is not going to lie to them, she is not making things up, and they know that she has leadership ability. She is going to look out for their interests and do everything she can to protect their lives, their homes and their community.

Mayor Mook called Richard Cox.

Question 1: Councilor Shapera asked what he would bring to the Council that does not currently exist.

Mr. Cox stated he is not necessarily sure that what he would bring to the Council doesn't already exist but what he would bring is a long history of being an independent business man, licensed in real estate for the last 35 years in California and Arizona. He has owned brokerages, mortgage companies and been through the good and bad and would bring that

perspective of operating a business profitably, fairly and following the laws at local, state and federal levels. He is not certain whether that is not already here but he would bring that as a team member of this Council.

Question 2: Councilor Jones asked what he considered to be the three most critical issues that are facing our City currently.

Mr. Cox stated the issues of traffic along Thunderbird. He knows it will be done but there is the matter of working through it. He also is cognizant of the perception of those who travel through our City and of our Citizens as to how long that is taking and the things they see. Example, he was traveling through Grand Avenue on a Sunday morning, stopped at the red light at Thunderbird and noticed nine guys were standing and watching one guy operate one of those smasher/roller devices. He is sure there is a reason but the perception to other citizens who may have seen that is that you have nine individuals on a Sunday, probably at triple time, watching one person do the work. If you have that much perception on little instances here and there, then you begin to plant the seed of doubt you might say. Eventually Thunderbird will be done and be a showcase but he is a very competitive person and has seen that the Bell Road flyover appears to have been done quicker than Thunderbird Road. It irks him that Surprise had it done before we could. Secondly, he would like to see something done about the roadway where Acoma comes out to Grand but that entire area from Dysart down to Thunderbird on the south or west side of Grand is heavily travelled and says to a lot of people, "What is El Mirage?" There is a lot that can be done there. He noticed that WesMec put in their school just on the other side in Surprise's lot and he would like for our City to get those types of opportunities where not only are we getting the revenue, we are getting the attention, we are getting the students but we are also getting the name out there of what El Mirage is about. Third, he would like to see what is going to happen with the 303 corridor which primarily goes through Goodyear and Surprise but that puts El Mirage in a perfect place to feed off of that with the Northern extension. This would provide additional jobs, jobs that will support some of the other businesses that are going in like the UPS Distribution Center that is going in off the 303 and other housing developments. Right where this City Hall is located there is a tremendous opportunity for El Mirage to plant a stake as to what they want El Mirage to be moving forward.

Question 3: Councilor Palladino asked if you could accomplish only one thing during your term on the Council, what would it be and why?

Mr. Cox stated prior to moving to El Mirage, he lived in West Phoenix and for a period of time he was a board member and then a president of a homeowner's association. Working with the State of Arizona and with the City of Phoenix they were able to establish a Block Watch that was about to use tax money that had already been collected without increasing taxes or doing a bond issue. They were able to access and use those funds to pay for additional lighting along a couple of roadways that fed into a school district in the area where our community was and we've got an additional camera that is about to watch an area constantly being vandalized, around community mailboxes. They were tapping into money already sitting there and using it to help the residents in the entire area. He is proud of that. He feels confident there are funds available at county and state levels that we would be able to tap into for the right projects. He would like to establish the mechanism

for a Block Watch or a Block Watch style group moving forward in the different areas, like Dysart Ranchettes, like Rancho El Mirage, like around the City Hall area, in the older area north of Thunderbird, to be able to draw the community together.

Question 4: Councilor Delgado asked if he has ever served on a public board, commission or committee in El Mirage and what has been your experience.

Mr. Cox stated he has not had the privilege of serving on a public board or committee in the City of El Mirage. The ones he has served on, and are still serving on are county or state oriented.

Question 5: Councilor Selby asked if there was anything else he would like to tell us about why you would like to sit on City Council.

Mr. Cox stated he looks at the mark of someone in three factors, one being their family, one being their career and one being their community service. He is the luckiest guy in the room because of his wife of almost 30 years. He has been fortunate enough to stay in a career that a lot of people do not consider stable but he is the designated managing broker of a property management company so he has been very fortunate. Where he has been most fortunate is the opportunities he has had to give back to the profession he is in, the communities he lives in and the state as a whole. For example, he is president of the Arizona Real Estate Educators Association, a non-profit association that attempts to educate and elevate the skills of educators who then can pass that along to the licensees who can interface with consumers. Part of his involvement is his association with the 911 Toy Drive which is a non-profit foundation that was founded by a radio personality by the name of W. Stephen Martin and every year they come together as a group and provide toys and other items for that foundation who distribute them to police and fire agencies throughout Maricopa County for children suffering through domestic situations, a fire, a crime, whatever. He enjoys that. They have already started gathering for the year. He has been fortunate to have those opportunities and he would like to take that energy and take that mind thought and bring it to the City Council.

- B. Consideration and action to nominate a candidate to be appointed to fill the vacant seat for the remainder of the term which ends in 2018.

Mayor Mook called for nominations.

Councilor Jones stated he was surprised and excited to see the quality of candidates who applied for this one position. Every one of these people is qualified, by no doubt, and there are a lot of things that stuck out. Each candidate brings something that is very important to El Mirage. He stated that for those who are not selected tonight, he hopes they will come back and maybe get involved in the next election. There are seven candidates for one position. He was impressed with all the candidates. One that stuck out in his mind is Monica Dorcey. He has known Monica for 10 years and she has worked in this City tirelessly for every resident of this City. She was very involved in bringing Riverview School when they said there would never be a school there. She fought for the citizens here and she fought for the children who were falling asleep on the bus that were hot during these 30-50 minute bus rides. She was very instrumental in bringing back our

Police Department, she supported Public Safety. She was instrumental in bringing back our own Police Department. She has tirelessly served this City for 10 years on almost every committee the City has had. She holds the experience and he is proud to nominate Monica Dorsey for the position of Councilmember. Councilor Palladino seconded the nomination of Monica Dorsey.

Councilor Delgado nominated Anita Norton for the position of City Council due to the fact she has done a lot of research and work on picking up water issues here in the City and has worked closely with some of the elected officials, federal and state to bring the realization to the City of El Mirage that homes can be built in this area. Councilor Shapera seconded this nomination.

Councilor Jones moved to nominate Monica Dorsey; seconded by Councilor Palladino. (3/3) Motion failed.

Yea votes cast by Mayor Mook, Councilors Jones and Palladino

Nay votes cast by Councilors Delgado, Selby and Shapera

Councilor Delgado moved to nominate Juanita Norton; seconded by Councilor Shapera. (3/3) Motion failed.

Yea votes cast by Councilors Delgado, Selby and Shapera

Nay votes cast by Mayor Mook, Councilors Jones and Palladino

Mayor Mook asked for any further nominations. No further nominations were received. Mayor Mook then stated Council has not been able to appoint an applicant to fill the vacancy and it will be re-agendized at the next regular Council meeting in an effort to find a solution. She was sorry they could not come to a decision but she thanked all the applicants for applying and must agree they were all terrific applicants; all made good presentations and answered the questions. She was very pleased to see the number applications received. She thanked them all for showing interest in this community.

V. **ADJOURNMENT** - Meeting Adjourned at 7:59 PM



Lana Mook, Mayor

Attest:



Sharon Antes, City Clerk

I hereby certify the aforementioned minutes are a true and accurate record of the Special El Mirage City Council Meeting held on Thursday, August 17, 2017 and a quorum was present.



Sharon Antes, City Clerk