City of Avondale

City Council Meeting

Link to Summary of Council Actions

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City of Avondale

City Council Online Meeting

Monday, December 14, 2020

Summary of Council Actions

Mayor and Council

Kenneth Weise, Mayor

Pat Dennis, Vice Mayor

Tina Conde, Council Member | Bryan Kilgore, Council Member

Veronica Malone, Council Member | Curtis Nielson, Council Member

Mike Pineda, Council Member

Administration

Charles A. Montoya, City Manager

Gina Montes, Assistant City Manager

Tracy Stevens, Deputy City Manager | Cherlene Penilla, Deputy City Manager

Nicholle Harris, City Attorney | Marcella Carrillo, City Clerk

Online Meeting

Join the meeting and view presentations: https://avondaleaz.zoom.us/j/3083557784

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Join the meeting with audio only: Call 301-715-8592 (meeting ID: 308 355 7784)

Avondale

City Council Online Meeting Notice & Agenda
Monday, December 14, 2020

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CITY COUNCIL RETREAT
4:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR

1. **ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK**

2. **COUNCIL BUDGET DISCUSSION**
   City Council discussed the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget process, preliminary department budget needs, and City Council goals for the budget process.

3. **ADJOURNMENT**

Council Members of the City of Avondale will attend either in person or by telephone conference call. Individuals with special accessibility needs, including sight or hearing impaired, large print, or interpreter, should contact the City Clerk at 623-333-1200 or TDD 623-333-0010 at least two business days prior to the Council Meeting.

Los miembros del Concejo de la Ciudad de Avondale participaran ya sea en persona o por medio de llamada telefonica. Personas con necesidades especiales de accesibilidad, incluyendo personas con impedimentos de vista u oido, o con necesidad de impresion grande o interprete, deben comunicarse con la Secretaria de la Ciudad at 623-333-1200 o TDD 623-333-0010 cuando menos dos dias habiles antes de la junta del Concejo.

MINUTES OF THE AVONDALE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF AVONDALE, ARIZONA
ONLINE MEETING
December 14, 2020

A **Budget Retreat** of the City Council of the City of Avondale, Arizona was convened using the Zoom Cloud Meeting platform in open and public session at 4:01 p.m. All participants attended by phone or video.

Members Present: Mayor Kenn Weise; Vice Mayor Pat Dennis; Council Members Tina Conde, Bryan Kilgore, Veronica Malone*, Curtis Nielson, and Mike Pineda.

**Council Member Malone joined the meeting at 4:06 p.m.*

Members Absent: None.

Other Municipal Officials Present: Charles Montoya, City Manager; Gina Montes, Assistant City Manager; Tracy Stevens, Deputy City Manager; Cherlene Penilla, Deputy City Manager; Nicholle Harris, City Attorney; Marcella Carrillo, City Clerk; Kirk Beaty, Public Works Director; Jessica Blazina, Intergovernmental Affairs Administrator; Ken Chapa, Economic Development Services Director; Lindsey Duncan, Finance and Budget Director; Craig Jennings, Judge; Bryan Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director; Chris Lopez, Neighborhood and Family Services Director; Callie McGraw, Interim Human Resource Director; Kevin Murphy, Development and Engineering Services Director; Dale Nannenga, Police Chief; Abril Ruiz-Ortega, Court Administrator; Jeffrey Scheetz, Chief Information Officer; and Pier Simeri, Marketing and Public Relations Director.

Audience: No members of the public were present.

1. ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK

New Public Works Director, Kirk Beaty, was introduced to City Council.

2. COUNCIL BUDGET DISCUSSION

City Council discussed the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget process, preliminary department budget needs, and City Council goals for the budget process.

Lindsey Duncan, Finance and Budget Director, reviewed the budget calendar. In January 2021, staff will be reviewing and further refining requests. During Council meetings in February and March of 2021, staff will utilize Council feedback to produce the City Manager's recommended budget, which will be published and presented in April. The typical calendar reflects a May tentative budget adoption with final adoption in June. The City is currently working on implementing new financial software. This year, departments have been asked to produce an asset replacement program that will be submitted as a single CIP project. Staff have been asked to collect 5-to 10-year worth of projections of detailed line items for assets. The presentation to Council consists of highlights of critical needs for asset replacement. This is not a comprehensive list and the process will continue in December and January.

Ms. Duncan provided an update on the local and national economy. The Consumer Price Index is at a zero percent while comparing October of this year to October of last year. The annual rate is approximately 1.2 percent which is up from 1.9 percent the prior year with a target level of 2 percent. The unemployment rate has fallen to 6.7 percent, after reaching highs in the 15 percent range. There has been significant recovery of jobs lost at the beginning of the pandemic. Arizona's unemployment rate remains slightly higher; however, Arizona tends to recover more quickly than most other states. Single family residential housing permits for Arizona are up with continued interest in home buying.

For General Fund revenues, local sales tax remains strong, with growth of approximately 14 percent. This is generally in the categories of retail sales tax and automobiles. Restaurants and bars are have flattened out but remain up by approximately 1 percent. There are declines in utilities, the entertainment sector, and commercial property rental sales taxes are down. Property tax and other taxes are down due to timing and decreases in utility franchise fees. Overall, intergovernmental revenues representing the state shared sales tax and income tax are up. The City will not see the effects on income tax from COVID until two years from now and will be monitored in the five-year forecast. License permits and charges for services are slightly down, mostly due to timing. Permitting is up, but this is offset by decreases in charges for services such as passport and recreation revenue. Overall, there is a positive picture, with the City up 6.2 percent over the prior year which is well in line with expectations. For the five-year forecast, the City is in a positive position about ongoing sources versus ongoing uses.

Mayor Weise asked for clarification on the timing issue in relation to dips in revenue for some line items. Ms. Duncan stated that for franchise fees, this is a matter of timing. In looking at the revenue forecast, it is expected that property taxes and franchise fees will be even with the original expectation. The charges for services area will likely be up. The permit increases should offset the decreases in both recreation and passport revenue; however, it is too soon to say what the final number will be.

Mr. Montoya clarified that this meeting would provide an overview of budget supplements submitted by departments. He also explained the regular budget has not changed and there have been no modifications to salary, benefit, or necessary contract increases to maintain current level of services. These presentations only include new program items. In February or March of 2021, staff will bring the entire budget by line item.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Dale Nannenga, Chief of Police, presented the preliminary budget supplements for the Police Department.

Vice Mayor Dennis referenced the increase for the Glendale Regional Public Safety Training Center (GRPSTC) with an ongoing cost of $20,000 and asked about the actual increase. Chief Nannenga clarified that the $20,000 represents the Department's 3.9 percent share.

Vice Mayor Dennis inquired as to the total number of dispatchers. Chief Nannenga said he believes there are a total of nine, including working supervisors who answer the phone and assist in dispatching. Vice Mayor Dennis asked about the ratio of dispatchers to officers. Chief Nannenga said he is unaware of a ratio industry standard for number of dispatchers per officer. There is minimum staffing of three dispatchers per shift. There are also part-time dispatchers who come on during busy times, but this does not factor in relief or vacation. There is significant overtime in this area to cover staff shortages and the position would help this deficit as well. Vice Mayor Dennis questioned whether the addition of a dispatcher will reduce the caseload overall. Chair Nannenga stated that this involves monitoring how the City grows over the next year or two. It may be that over the next several years, they will have to make further additions. It is difficult to hire dispatchers, as it is a demanding career. The City currently has two vacancies.

Council Member Malone asked whether the Department has enough space or anticipates growing out of the dispatcher communications area. Chair Nannenga stated that a recent study group looked at the area for potential expansion needs. There is currently enough space for the next several years. Council Member Malone asked Mr. Montoya whether this should be included as a CIP in the next several years. Mr. Montoya said there is potential for this; however, overflow capacity in the Emergency Operations Center is available if it is needed. The expansion of the police department is currently underway. It would be best to complete the buildout before assessing additional needs. If necessary, the expansion to the dispatch area could be placed in the capital budget by midyear.

FIRE & MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

Dale Nannenga, Chief of Police, presented the preliminary budget supplements for the Fire and Medical Department.

In response to a question from Council Member Pineda about additions to the fleet, Mr. Montoya stated that the City consistently reviews at least five-years out and staff is required to maintain records of costs for each vehicle. Any identified needs are typically placed in the budget at least three years prior.

Council Member Nielson referenced the federal monies available for the new firehouse. He asked what will happen if by the time it gets built, the materials have escalated in price beyond the available funding. Mr. Montoya stated that the City is in the process of getting to a guaranteed maximum price (GMP) agreement on the fire station. There is a federal grant to hire 14 firefighters, who are fully funded over three years with the exception of the additional pay for a captain and engineer. There is also grant money for the build of the fire station at approximately $10.1 million and preliminary design is in progress. The

GMP should not exceed $8 million even with any escalation in cost. A contingency will be set aside to allow the budget to adapt, if necessary.

Vice Mayor Dennis asked whether the City has the $750,000 available for the new engine or if this is included in the grant. Mr. Montoya stated that the City does not anticipate purchase of another engine at this time. Based on the outside study done earlier this year, the department is looking to relocate some equipment, including the ladder truck, to the new fire station. Other equipment will also be reallocated. With the reallocation of equipment, there will be a request in the next couple of years to purchase another engine. Vice Mayor Dennis expressed concern that the ladder truck is being used as the primary vehicle for medical situations. Mr. Montoya stated that additional positions are being added so that there is a two-runner truck for medical calls.

Mayor Weise commented that the aged cardiac monitors are a significant concern. He inquired about acquiring the new equipment sooner than the projected timeline of six or seven months. Mr. Montoya stated that even if the order is placed now, it will still take six to eight months for delivery. At Council's direction, staff can work on this ahead of time to potentially place the order in January, prior to finalization of the budget.

Council Member Nielson suggested that this equipment be placed on the list of items that is continually monitored for replacement needs. Mr. Montoya clarified that some of the items are monitored based on the amount of use. The asset list will dictate criteria between three and five years, with amount of use recognized.

MUNICIPAL COURT

Craig Jennings, Judge, presented the preliminary budget supplements for the Municipal Court.

Mr. Montoya clarified that the lobby expansion budget should be approximately $100,000, as the work includes both design and engineering.

Vice Mayor Dennis asked for clarification if the security officer would be under the supervision of the Police Department or Municipal Court. Judge Jennings stated that the security officer will be part of the municipal security team, assigned to the Municipal Court. This full-time position would replace the current half-time position.

NEIGHBORHOOD & FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Chris Lopez, Director of Neighborhood and Family Services, presented the preliminary budget supplements for the Neighborhood and Family Services Department.

Council Member Nielson asked whether the $15,000 meal funding request is adequate for a one-year period. Mr. Lopez stated that the amount is based on data from AAA and other City partners and they are confident in the estimate. Currently, there is $87,000 in the food budget and this would be an appropriate request for the increased demand. Council Member Nielson asked whether there are additional needs for the new Care1st center. Mr. Lopez said he is confident that all needs have been addressed and explained that the building is nearly complete. They have staffing and equipment to provide top quality services.

Vice Mayor Dennis asked whether the intake system will also be used for the senior center. Mr. Lopez confirmed this understanding, noting that the system will have barcode scanners and be used for all divisions. The system allows for tracking of individual programs. It will also assist with production of reports for grant funders and for internal purposes. Ideally, the goal would be to issue seniors a membership card with a barcode. The card would be utilized in a self-service mode and can be used to track attendance.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Dennis on the design of the Civic Center library improvements, Mr. Lopez stated that staff have consulted with experts and worked with architects to analyze the space. Key items have been priorities for incorporation into the plan. Vice Mayor Dennis requested that Council be provided additional detail as to the layout plans.

Vice Mayor Dennis asked whether the budget allotted last year for the homebuyer program has been fully expended. Mr. Lopez described it as a dynamic program with the housing market being the determining factor on utilization. Last year, there were a flurry of homebuyers at the end of the fiscal year. The majority, if not all funds, were expended. This year the housing market is a little different as prices have skyrocketed. To date, they have not had anyone take advantage of the program. This is submitted as one-time requests, so that the funds are reabsorbed.

PARKS & RECREATION

Bryan Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director, presented the preliminary budget supplements for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Council Member Nielson commented on his recent trip to the Alamar Housing Development, he expressed the need to staff the Alamar Community Park from day one.

Vice Mayor Dennis inquired as to the funding source for the $1.2 million for the Civic Center Space project. Mr. Montoya stated that this is a one-time cost out of the General Fund. Vice Mayor Dennis said she is not excited to expend this amount of money for this project as she would rather see improvements at other park locations. As an alternative, the funds could be considered in terms of needed resources for homeless programs. Mr. Montoya said this project was presented for Council feedback. Vice Mayor Dennis suggested a focus on keeping current facilities in top shape rather than expending funds for this type of project at this time.

Council Member Malone concurred with Vice Mayor Dennis. She would like to see a reinvestment in Old Town, Cashion and Las Ligas. In terms of holiday lighting, she would like to see lighting on Western Avenue.

Mayor Weise commented that the east side of Civic Center Library has great views; however, he concurs that the funds should be spent to improve other City facilities. Perhaps a smaller budget enhancement could take place at the Civic Center site. He loved the idea of expanding Friendship Park. Landscaping request for proposals should include maintenance on the outside of City Hall and other buildings. He would also like to see lights come back to Western Avenue.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ken Chapa, Economic Development Services Director, presented the preliminary budget supplements for the Economic Development Services Department.

Council Member Kilgore inquired on the $50,000 Economic Diversification Initiatives item. Mr. Chapa stated that due to the pandemic, the entire landscape for conducting business has changed. The funds will be used to invest in education programs and web tools to service local small businesses. Council Member Kilgore stated this initiative sounded good and was something he echoed previously, the need to diversify. He inquired if the $50,000 would be enough. Mr. Chapa explained, with the other programs available, the requested amount should be enough to support the initiatives on this front but is willing to reexamine the amount, if it is desired by Council. Council Member Kilgore spoke on the importance of looking for ways to be innovative and current with the times.

Council Member Malone inquired what will be included in the Akos Phase II Economic Development Agreement item. Mr. Chapa stated that it will likely be a nursing facility on the top floor and an intake facility on the bottom floor. In response to a question from Council Member Malone, Mr. Montoya stated that having it be a substance abuse treatment facility was not an appropriate use for the space and that it will instead be used for nursing care. Council Member Malone commended staff for their social medial presence and thanked staff for all their hard work.

Vice Mayor Dennis asked whether these type of economic opportunity funds have ever been provided to other nursing facilities in the City. Mr. Montoya said that has not occurred since he has been with the City. Vice Mayor Dennis stated that this would not be one of her top choices for application of the funding resources. Mr. Montoya said that Council will be continually updated as the plans become more concrete moving forward.

Mayor Weise referenced the destination manager budget and stated that he would like the City to partner with Visit Phoenix. Visit Phoenix does a great job of promoting the racetrack and the West Valley. They are less expensive than most organizations of similar size. Mr. Montoya stated staff have been working with Visit Phoenix on current projects. Mayor Weise added that Visit Phoenix helps organize trips and travel agent shows.

DEVELOPMENT & ENGINEERING SERVICES

Kevin Murphy, Development and Engineering Services Director, presented the preliminary budget supplements for the Development and Engineering Services Department.

Council Member Nielson cited the truck cost of $37,000 and inquired as to the potential for an electric vehicle. Council Member Nielson questioned the effectiveness of the message boards on the side of the street, as they are viewed by a limited number of people and opinioned that there are more effective modes of communication. Mr. Montoya stated that there is no other way to communicate to the general public for temporary notifications such NASCAR or special events. Mr. Murphy stated that they are mostly used for important traffic notifications. Council Member Nielson shared appreciation on the funding for the roundabout; however, he noted that for construction, they will need to look at traffic patterns and acquiring the necessary land.

In response to a question from Council Member Malone, Mr. Montoya stated that the signage coming in from Goodyear on Western has not been changed. Council Member Malone said she would like to see the signage upgraded in this area.

Vice Mayor Dennis asked for confirmation that the EV charging stations will be located on City property. Mr. Montoya confirmed that in the beginning, this will be the case. For all new facilities coming online, the goal is to get one or two charging stations and staff is looking at placing them in other areas of the City as well. Vice Mayor Dennis suggested that staff work with existing grocery stores and other business in terms of facilitating installation. Mr. Montoya said there will be challenges with many of these businesses with not having the appropriate wattage available within their electrical lines.

Vice Mayor Dennis referred to the Old Town entry feature and lighting, noting that the arch entry into the City was in the budget years ago at $250,000 and eventually was removed from the budget for lack of an agreement. She expressed concern that it would once again fade away from prioritization. Mr. Montoya concurred, noting that aside from a lack of total agreement, the actual amount was also approximately twice what was originally budgeted. Moving forward, more accurate costs and design will be brought to Council.

Vice Mayor Dennis referenced the request for $100,000 for the Traffic Study for Western Avenue and Dysart Road Roundabout and inquired if this will be enough to also include Western Avenue and Central Avenue. Mr. Montoya explained a traffic study was already completed in the area of Western Avenue and Dysart Road so this item will include an update to the current study. The Western Avenue and Dysart Road area traffic study can be added as directed by Council.

Mayor Weise asked staff to bring information regarding a plan to revitalize the area at Western Avenue and Central Avenue.

Vice Mayor Dennis asked for clarification on the ownership of the bus shelters for the Bus Shelter Repair/Maintenance item. Mr. Murphy stated that the budget item involves replacement of existing bus shelters. Mr. Montoya added that most of the bus shelters are owned by the City, but the maintenance is contracted out.

Council Member Kilgore inquired on the number of bus shelters that are within the City of Avondale. Mr. Murphy stated there are approximately 30 bus shelters in the City. Council Member Kilgore stated this is a nice investment and he would like to see them enhanced to remain functional yet still aesthetically pleasing. He would like to see them coincide with the City, stating beauty is a necessary element in the community. He would like to see the money used towards a creative design or visibly pleasing design. Mr. Montoya stated that over the last year and half, community members and Council Members have provided similar feedback. There will be a need to become more creative and inventive in developing shelters in the future, especially to prevent them from being used for other purposes. Council Member Kilgore stated he echoes those comments from the past and now. In closing, Council Member Kilgore identified a wayfinding sign at Dysart and McDowell that needs a significant makeover.

Council Member Malone echoed the comments from Vice Mayor Dennis and Council Member Kilgore with respect to the bus shelters. She noted the importance of developing a design to prevent them from being used for other purposes.

Council Member Pineda commented that providing more EV charging stations at sites in the City will encourage people to stop and charge their vehicles while also patronizing businesses in the City. Council Member Pineda echoed Council Member Malone's comments regarding bus shelters, stating it would be wise to have individual seating at bus shelters. Mr. Montoya commented that up until approximately a year ago, there were no EV charging stations in the City. The City took the initiative to start installing them.

Council Member Malone suggested placing signs to list unauthorized uses of the bus shelters. Mr. Montoya confirmed that small signs can be installed at the shelters.

Mayor Weise commented that there are less than a dozen charging companies. ChargePoint will often place a station for free just to collect revenue from the station. Mandating the installation of stations for future development is something Council should consider. He expressed the importance of being open with the community with respect to the Thomas Road Bridge project. He noted there are citizens in favor of the bridge for the ease of traffic, but he recognizes how it will impact the current lifestyles of the residents of Rancho Santa Fe. Vice Mayor Dennis stated the City has been active to making the residents aware of the project. Mr. Montoya stated that the design study is necessary as McDowell Road will become busier and there is no way to expand it. It is better to strategize and be ahead of the curve if later in the future the City is mandated to address issues. Mayor Weise stressed the need for education efforts to the public over the next couple of year regarding the need for the Thomas Road Bridge and the related issues.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Cindy Blackmore, Assistant Public Works Director, presented the preliminary budget supplements for the Public Works Department. Mayor Weise thanked Ms. Blackmore for her service to the City of Avondale. Ms. Blackmore commented on her time at the City and gave a brief overview of her future plans.

Vice Mayor Dennis congratulated Ms. Blackmore. Vice Mayor Dennis asked about a timeline for keeping up with curbside and bulk operator services in the future. Ms. Blackmore said this depends on the consistency of growth. It is likely that another route will need to be added in two to three years. Vice Mayor Dennis inquired whether the City has completed its five-year water increase schedule to customers. Ms. Blackmore stated staff are in the process of completing a new water and sewer rate study which will be coming forward to Council in the next few months. Vice Mayor Dennis agreed that they should update the evaluation of enterprise funds, especially considering the huge expansion in the south. She inquired if money is included in the $170,000 Mountain View Park Tank Abandonment item to renovate the land. Ms. Blackmore stated the $170,000 includes only the removal of the tank and the clearing of the site.

Council Member Kilgore congratulated Ms. Blackmore, stating she will be missed. He shared a past memory of a tour of the various water facilities that Ms. Blackmore hosted. Council Member Kilgore expressed his appreciation for the work that is being done on the sidewalks and asked if the $10,000 budget for landscape fees and street materials is adequate. Ms. Blackmore clarified that the $10,000 is the best estimate and represents an increase in the budget for the workload that staff could handle, which will be reevaluated each year. Council Member Kilgore inquired on the current budgeted amount. Ms. Blackmore stated she did not have that number but could provide it at a later time. Council Member Kilgore stressed the importance of having enough funds for streets and sidewalks as these are items that are often identified by residents.

Council Member Malone congratulated Ms. Blackmore and shared well wishes.

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Marcella Carrillo, City Clerk, presented the preliminary budget supplements for the City Clerk's Office.

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Nicholle Harris, City Attorney, presented the preliminary budget supplements for the City Attorney's Office.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Dennis, Ms. Harris quoted the total cost for outside counsel at $375,000. Vice Mayor Dennis suggested the possibility of bringing another lawyer into City staff to manage some of the cases internally in the future.

MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

Pier Simeri, Marketing and Public Relations Director, presented the preliminary budget supplements for the Marketing and Public Relations Department.

Council Member Nielson suggested paring down the number of informational flyers in Alamar to a one-page document that is concise and provides the necessary marketing information. Ms. Simeri said this can be done using current marketing materials.

Council Member Kilgore thanked Ms. Simeri for the presentation and for the request to add an additional graphic designer.

Mayor Weise addressed the proposed new personnel to front the conference center. The candidate should have the ability to be trained to build group resumes in terms of booking rooms and following up on questions.

Council Member Malone commended the department in employing so many methods of outreach to the community, including the use of Channel 11 and the banners on Avondale Boulevard.

Note from the City Clerk: City Council took a recess at 6:45 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

FINANCE & BUDGET DEPARTMENT

Lindsey Duncan, Finance and Budget Director, presented the preliminary budget supplements for the Finance and Budget Department.

Vice Mayor Dennis inquired as to the payroll processing system, noting that it was once done in-house and subsequently outsourced. Ms. Duncan stated that an outside company has been providing the services for five to seven years. Bringing it inhouse will provide more timely access to make changes in the system. The outside service is not as responsive and reactive in comparison to inhouse software. Mr. Montoya added that as staffing increases and modifications are required, the costs continue to rise. He confirmed that the cost includes a full-time employee.

Ms. Duncan elaborated on Vice Mayor Dennis's earlier questions about the timeline for rate studies for utility increases. Rate increases for water are programmed through Fiscal Year 2023. The rate increase was 2 percent per year for Fiscal years ’21, ’22 and ’23. The sewer increases were 6 percent in Fiscal Year ’18 and ’19 and zero since then.

Council Member Malone asked if the integration of systems means that the system will be housed in a cloud or will exist inhouse with a physical server. Mr. Scheetz said this is yet to be determined and will be based on the need's assessment and RFP. There is capacity inhouse for additional servers. They do have a fully virtualized environment, meaning that they do not necessarily add hardware each time they bring on a new piece of software. In response to a question from Council Member Malone, staff would likely be the one to work on such a system. In response to a question from Council Member Malone regarding security, Mr. Scheetz stated that the City has an annual security audit from an outside group.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Jeffrey Scheetz, Chief Information Officer, presented the preliminary budget supplements for the Information and Technology Department.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Dennis, Mr. Scheetz stated that there are currently three GIS employees throughout the City. One is dedicated to water within Public Works, two serve the remaining departments, and the new position would be focused on Development and Engineering Services.

Vice Mayor Dennis noted that the Wi-Fi is mostly available in the southern portion of the City. She asked about the possibility to partner with HOAs or other entities to provide more service in the northern part of the City. Mr. Scheetz said they are happy to explore those possibilities; however, Wi-Fi has been incorporated in conjunction with park upgrades and remodels. Mr. Montoya noted that staff have been adding Wi-Fi within public service areas such as the parks and library to ensure public funds are being spent for public benefit. He noted staff can reach out to the HOAs in the future. Vice Mayor Dennis reiterated the fact that the northern part of the City is lacking this service due to the absence of City-owned parks.

Council Member Malone referenced GPS software for vehicles and asked if this includes all vehicles, including fire and police. Mr. Scheetz said the GPS software is currently on approximately 100 vehicles, covering a majority of fleet vehicles. Police have their own GPS system that integrates within their computer aided dispatch software. Council Member Malone asked if the software would be expanded to additional vehicles. Mr. Montoya stated that the effort is to ensure that all City-owned vehicles have the GPS software. The current software is archaic, it takes a great deal of effort to utilize, and it does not provide real-time data. Council Member Malone noted her experience with the Zonar system and encouraged staff to explore the purchase of various modules or a meeting with a consultant to review the various modules as it provides a robust reporting feature. Council Member Malone inquired of the number of vehicles that are lacking the GPS software. Mr. Sheetz explained he does not have those figures at this time, but he can provide that information at a later time. Mr. Montoya explained this process was introduced about eight months ago where they began with vehicles in Public Works and the Parks and Recreation departments. He explained staff will add the software to all vehicles in addition to the Police and Fire departments.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Callie McGraw, Interim Human Resource Director, presented the preliminary budget supplements for the Human Resources Department.

CITY ADMINISTRATION
Marshall Pimentel, Management Analyst, presented the preliminary budget supplements for the City Administration Department.

Mayor Weise said he was glad to see the addition of the new Facilities department. Having facilities be its own department will help to free up time and streamline processes. He is excited to see the hiring of an employee with a great holistic understanding of all the skills required.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Montoya stated that over the next couple of months, staff will begin to work on base numbers for potential increases on contracts or benefits. The budget will come back before Council in March, where they will be looking at departments and line items all together. Staff will also follow up on the questions asked by Council.

Council Member Nielson thanked staff for their hard work in providing all the budget information.

Mayor Weise echoed the comments by Council Member Nielson. Even with the great difficulties this year has brought, it is quite encouraging that the City is in better shape than they had hoped for.

Vice Mayor Dennis commended the City leadership for its response to community needs.

3. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, Council Member Malone moved to adjourn the Work Session meeting; Council Member Pineda seconded the motion.

Upon vote, the motion was carried unanimously 7 to 0.

Council Member Conde	Aye
Council Member Kilgore	Aye
Council Member Malone	Aye
Council Member Nielson	Aye
Council Member Pineda	Aye
Vice Mayor Dennis	Aye
Mayor Weise	Aye

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

____
Kenn Weise, Mayor

CERTIFICATION AND ATTESTATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Budget Retreat of the Council of the City of Avondale held on the 14^{th} day of December 2020. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that the quorum was present.

________________________________	________________________________
Marcella Carrillo, City Clerk	Date Approved by City Council