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This document was created from the closed caption transcript of the January 10, 2023 City Council Special meeting and has not been checked for completeness or accuracy of content.

A copy of the agenda for this meeting, including a summary of the action taken on each agenda item, is available online at:

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For ease of reference, included throughout the transcript are bracketed "time stamps" [Time: 00:00:00] that correspond to digital video recording time.

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Mayor David Ortega: Well, I call the January 10, 2023 city Council Special Meeting to order. We have a joyous welcome to everyone who is here as we proceed with the city Council inauguration ceremony.

For the record, all our council members are in attendance as well as the charter officers. I'll call on Councilwoman Janik to lead us in the pledge

[Time: 00:00:34]

Councilmember Janik: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

Mayor David Ortega: Excellent. Per our city Council rules of procedure, citizens attending the city Council meetings shall observe the same rules of order and decorum applicable to the members of the city Council and city staff. Unauthorized remarks or demonstrations from the audience such as applause, whistles, or other demonstrations shall not be permitted. A violation of these rules could result in removal from the meeting by security. Also, too much noise might startle the boys.

So today is a very special and -- a special meeting. We will have the solemn oath administered to two returning councilmembers and welcome to a new council member to the dais.

I will ask the City Clerk Ben Lane to individually administer the oath of office to the returning to councilwomen and for the newly elected. So come forward, Kathy Littlefield, Solange Whitehead and Barry Graham and our esteemed Clerk of the city of Scottsdale, Ben Lane.

City Clerk Ben Lane: Please raise your right hand and repeat after me. I state your name, do solemnly swear.

Councilwoman Littlefield: I, Kathy Littlefield, do solemnly swear

City Clerk Lane: that I will support the Constitution of the United States

Councilwoman Littlefield: that I will support the Constitution of the United States

City Clerk Lane: and the Constitution and laws of the state of Arizona

Councilwoman Littlefield: and the Constitution and laws of the state of Arizona

City Clerk Lane: that I will bear truth, faith and allegiance to the same

Councilwoman Littlefield: that I will bear truth, faith and allegiance to the same

City Clerk Lane: and defend them against all enemies, foreign and domestic

Councilwoman Littlefield: and defend them against all enemies, foreign and domestic

City Clerk Lane: and that I will faithfully and impartially

Councilwoman Littlefield: and that I will faithfully and impartially

City Clerk Lane: discharge the duties of the office of City Council

Councilwoman Littlefield: discharge the duties of the office of City Council

City Clerk Lane: according to the best of my ability, so help me God

Councilwoman Littlefield: according to the best of my ability, so help me God

City Clerk Ben Lane: Congratulations.

Mayor David Ortega: Next we will have Councilwoman Solange Whitehead.

[Time: 00:03:53]

City Clerk Ben Lane: Councilwoman Whitehead, please raise your right hand and repeat after me. I state your name, do solemnly swear.

Councilmember Whitehead: I, Solange Whitehead, do solemnly swear

City Clerk Lane: that I will support the Constitution of the United States

Councilwoman Whitehead: that I will support the Constitution of the United States

City Clerk Lane: and the Constitution and laws of the state of Arizona

Councilwoman Whitehead: and the Constitution and laws of the state of Arizona

City Clerk Lane: that I will bear truth, faith and allegiance to the same

Councilwoman Whitehead: that I will bear truth, faith and allegiance to the same

City Clerk Lane: and defend them against all enemies, foreign and domestic

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City Clerk Lane: discharge the duties of the office of City Council

Councilwoman Whitehead: discharge the duties of the office of City Council

City Clerk Lane: according to the best of my ability, so help me God

Councilwoman Whitehead: according to the best of my ability, so help me God

City Clerk Ben Lane: Congratulations.

(Applause).

Mayor David Ortega: Thank you. Next, Barry Graham.

[Time: 00:05:18]

Councilmember Graham: Thank you. It's good to be here. My mother, Jana Graham, and twin sons; this is Monroe and Baron Graham. And my beautiful wife Farah Graham. Ready Ben.

City Clerk Ben Lane: Councilmember Graham, please raise your right hand and repeat after me. I state your name, do solemnly swear.

Councilmember Graham: I, Barry Graham, do solemnly swear

City Clerk Lane: that I will support the Constitution of the United States

Councilmember Graham: that I will support the Constitution of the United States

City Clerk Lane: and the Constitution and laws of the state of Arizona

Councilmember Graham: and the Constitution and laws of the state of Arizona

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Councilmember Graham: according to the best of my ability, so help me God

City Clerk Ben Lane: Congratulations.

Councilmember Graham: Thank you.

[Time: 00:06:36]

Mayor David Ortega: Well, ladies and gentlemen, I present the new Council who are at your service. Let's start with Councilman Littlefield. Please give us your thoughts.

Councilwoman Littlefield: I really appreciate the honor that has been bestowed upon me. I'd like to thank everyone who have worked hard on my behalf to make this happen and to make this day possible. Thank you so much.

Most specifically, I would like to thank my husband, Bob Littlefield, who worked day and night, basically, on behalf of me and my campaign doing so much of the hard work, putting up signs, taking down signs, doing emails, doing all kinds of things on the Internet -- I don't even know what the words are for. But he really caused this to happen for us and I really appreciate it.

I plan to totally live up to my oath of office and to what I promised my constituents here in the city of Scottsdale, to work for their behalf and on their behalf for the next four years.

Thank you so much. (Applause)

Mayor David Ortega: Councilwoman Whitehead?

[Time: 00:07:58]

Councilmember Whitehead: I want to express my gratitude for being reelected to this wonderful office to serve a city that I love. Of course, I want to thank all of the voters that went out and voted in the many people who supported me and certainly, my husband, Mike. So, this is my second term and four years ago I arrived here with a pretty energetic to do list. And honestly, I did not even think I could get it all done or we could get it done, but four years later, I understood how much I underestimate the team.

The we is so important. City government is actually a team sport and every good idea that we have, we work really hard -- it's vetted through our staff and we debate, negotiate, compromise and vote. We work with our citizens and we've gotten a lot done. Our infrastructure is funded. We have a sustainability director. We have new codes and new parks and we have better development. So I'm feeling pretty proud and optimistic about all that is on our agenda for the next four years. So I'm looking forward to working with everybody again and getting things done.

I want to thank all my colleagues in the mayor for helping us to succeed. So thank you. (Applause)

Mayor David Ortega: Councilman Graham.

Councilmember Graham: It's so good to be here and like Councilwoman Littlefield and Whitehead I want to congratulate them on their reelection it's something they should be very proud and we are looking forward to working with both of them as well as Mayor Ortega and the rest of the councilmembers up here. So thank you.

I would not be here if it wasn't for the unseen and unsung help of so many. There are too many for me to name them. But they are in my gratitude. I'd like to thank the members of my campaign and all the volunteers, the donors, the helpers and the supporters in the voters.

I also want to thank my family -- who you got a sneak preview of. Especially for my wife. Thank you so much. The past year has been so demanding and for that, I appreciate it.

And I also want to thank everyone here. This night, this is a remarkable turnout. My hope is actually that this turnout is indicative of resident's involvement on a go forward basis. We'll see more turnout, more

engagement as -- over the next couple of years. So thank you so much for coming and as I begin my term, I would like to read in my pledge to encourage residents to have more say in this city's future and more say about the direction of our city.

With that thank you councilmembers, thank you Mayor, charter officers. I'm excited to work with you and thank you everyone for being here and thank you for those who tuned in online. Thank you.

(Applause).

Mayor David Ortega: We'll go through other remarks and comments. I will call on Vice Mayor Durham. Go ahead, Tom.

Vice Mayor Durham: Thank you, Mayor. I'd like to welcome Barry and returning members. Kathy and Solange and I look forward to working with them over the next two years and accomplishing more great things for the City of Scottsdale. Thank you.

(Applause)

Mayor Ortega: Councilwoman Janik?

[Time: 00:12:30]

Councilwoman Janik: I'd like to welcome Barry to our group of seven and happy to have the return of my buddies Kathy and Solange. I think we have a good representation of what the city stands for and what they believe in. And I think that we will be very successful in implementing what our citizens want because really that's what all of us that serve hope to do. So welcome, and I look forward to working with you. Thank you.

Mayor David Ortega: Thank you. Councilmember Caputi.

Councilwoman Caputi: Thank you. I want to welcome the new and returning councilmembers, Whitehead, Littlefield and Barry Graham. Thank you for being here. I look forward to working with you all. I think that this is a council of seven very diverse people who have markedly different experiences and viewpoints that we can all bring to the table. And we represent a very diverse community, 240,000 residents, 18,000 businesses, over 40 schools and I really look forward to bringing all of our different voices together, to moving our city forward successfully and sustainably. So let's get to work.

Mayor David Ortega: Thank you. I'll add -- I'll add my praise and thanks for the last two years working with our council and what we accomplish. We are a new council and we are very much empowered by our city. I say that because I believe local government is the most direct and responsible representative government that we can have.

I'm not going to talk about Washington DC or the UN or anything like that. We are local. We're here to

represent you and to carry ourselves well.

I also want to applaud the charter officers. So, from the legal team, city manager office, auditor, Clerk, et cetera, that is how we are alerted to the needs in the community. And I definitely agree with Councilman Graham, we thrive on communication. As we move forward, I think it's important to point out that we do work and depend on the federal contacts with our senators and congressional leaders. They funded our improvements at the Scottsdale airport and certainly, other needs that we have in the community.

[Time: 00:15:29]

We also are the bridge to the state government and haven't been able to speak for people of Scottsdale at the state level. At the county level, every one of us will have an assignment through the Maricopa Association of government and again, bringing whatever skills we have is part of the team. And then finally our ability to speak with our adjoining cities, with the native peoples is really important. And so at all those levels, that is why we are here to serve. At this point, I want to mention that with all the family we see here and we have some refreshments and we're going to break shortly. Our Council meeting will start at 5 o'clock. I will request a motion and a second to adjourn.

Councilwoman Whitehead: So moved Mayor.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Second.

Mayor Ortega: We have a motion and a second. All in favor? We are adjourned. Thank you.