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CALL TO ORDER

[Time: 00:00:01]

Mayor Ortega: Hello, everyone. At this time, I call the April 2, 2024, City Council Regular Meeting to order. City Clerk Ben Lane, please conduct the roll call.

ROLL CALL

[Time: 00:00:14]

Ben Lane: Thank you, Mayor. Mayor David Ortega.

Mayor Ortega: Present.

Ben Lane: Vice Mayor Solange Whitehead.

Vice Mayor Whitehead: Here.

Ben Lane: Councilmembers Tammy Caputi.

Councilwoman Caputi: Here.

Ben Lane: Tom Durham.

Councilmember Durham: Here.

Ben Lane: Barry Graham.

Councilmember Graham: Here.

Ben Lane: Betty Janik.

Councilwoman Janik: Here.

Ben Lane: And Kathy Littlefield.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Here.

Ben Lane: City Manager Jim Thompson.

Jim Thompson: Here.

Ben Lane: City Attorney Sherry Scott.

Sherry Scott: Here.

Ben Lane: City Treasurer Sonia Andrews.

Sonia Andrews: Here.

Ben Lane: Acting City Auditor Lai Cluff.

Lai Cluff: Here.

Ben Lane: And the Clerk is present. Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Ortega: Well, excellent. We have Sergeant Sean Ryan, as well as Detective Dustin Patrick, and Firefighter Dustin Brown, should anyone need assistance. I will also point out that the restrooms are through the rectangular opening to the, my left, and no one is allowed past that point.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

[Time: 00:00:07]

At this point, we will begin with our Pledge of Allegiance, Councilmember Barry Graham.

Councilmember Graham: It would be my pleasure. 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'S REPORT

[Time: 00:01:33]

Mayor Ortega: At this time, I do want to call our attention to the ongoing wars in foreign countries, as they fight to protect their freedom and democracy. I ask that you join me in pause and reflection for these war-torn countries. Thank you. Next, we have a Proclamation because we have bike month in Scottsdale. You may have noticed some colorful Team Penske over here to my right, and as well as our Transportation Department and HonorHealth is the presenting sponsor for the Tour de Scottsdale which is coming up. And, of course, the tournament main I want to say handlers of the Tour de Scottsdale are the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy. So, I will lead off with the proclamation honoring all of us and their efforts and then we'll take a group picture.

So, proclamation: Whereas Scottsdale maintains and enhances a wide variety of on-street, off-street and shared pathway bike networks which accommodate every level of leisure and avid cyclist, promote a healthy lifestyle and safely connect neighborhoods, schools, and employment districts; and whereas, Scottsdale is recognized as a gold level bicycle-friendly community, by the League of American Bicyclists, which extends our elite status as one of only 34 gold level communities across the country, ranking among the top 10% of cities recognized by the League; and whereas, the City of Scottsdale is a proud partner of the Tour de Scottsdale of 2024, a world-class bicycle race this month, April 13th, with more than 3,000 riders, with challenging and scenic courses that originate and end at WestWorld of Scottsdale; whereas, Cycle the Arts, a popular annual guided bike tour of 13 public art installations from the Scottsdale public art collection featured along an 8-mile bike ride highlighted by local artist Yazmin Yarely Acosta Sagastume artwork called One Eyed Jack; and where the city has launched the cycle smart Scottsdale campaign to increase safe behavior by motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians to prevent injuries and eliminate fatalities among the bicyclists. Be safe and cycle smart in Scottsdale. Therefore, I, David D. Ortega, the Mayor of Scottsdale declare Scottsdale Bike Month in April. Let's give us a hand.

We do have the department, Transportation Department. I'm going to ask the Council to stand where we are and stay at the dais and they will come in front, because we do have quite a group, rather than going down to the bottom. So come closer and we'll stand with you all. You are welcome. Team Penske is one of the leading groups. There are many corporate teams who love to show off and enjoy riding. I'm going to hey, we are looking good. You know what we are going to do. We will ask Team Penske, except for the tall guy, to stand up on that little wall right there. I think we could well you're, you're too tall. You're okay. You're okay. You're okay. I was wrong. Go ahead and go down. Double up. We'll get it. And ride on, everybody! Great. Thank you so much.

We have the main presentation to HonorHealth, as well as the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy. So I will call them forward, and then Mark with the Transportation Department as well. They are spearheading this entire effort. Maybe they are out the door. Who knows. Okay, it's all right we will continue with the program. We will get their copies of the proclamation. Is that Vicky? Okay. All right. Why don't you come forward and we'll just. So, the Tour de Scottsdale, you will be hearing a lot about it and certainly want to support your local neighborhood bike shop.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

[Time: 00:09:20]

Mayor Ortega: We'll next go to the City Manager's Report, I will call on Jim Thompson to provide his report.

City Manager Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Mayor, members of Council. This evening, we have a short video for you, a Fast Five, so you can see it on the screens. Thank you.

Video: Hi, I'm Public Affairs Specialist, Stephanie Hirata with Five Fast things happening around the city you need to know. Starting us off at number five, attention Scottsdale residents. Seize this golden opportunity to volunteer your time and become a beacon of positive change in our beloved city. You are invited to step up and apply to serve on a city board or commission. We've got openings on 12 boards and commissions, including the Board of Adjustment, Citizens Bond Oversight Committee, Environmental Advisory Commission, Historic Preservation Commission and Lost Trust Fund Board. Take the Historic Preservation Board for instance. The City Council established this group to manage and develop Scottsdale's Historic Preservation Program. The Program aims to boost public awareness of Scottsdale's heritage, designate and recognize important local resources, and actively assist in the protection, preservation and enhancement of Scottsdale's finest historic examples. Ready to roll up your sleeves and join in? Applications are open until April 26th. View current and future openings and apply at Scottsdaleaz.gov and search boards and commissions.

Coming in at number four, the Transportation and Streets Department is handling an exceptional influx of pothole repair requests due to winter weather fluctuations and street utility cuts and general roadway wear and tear. Paving crews expedited repair requests by bringing on street operations crew members effectively doubling their two-man crew. Most potholes occur in the roadway travel lanes requiring lane closures of up to 30 minutes to repair. We prioritize the safety of both the public and our crews, so we urge motorists to approach construction zones with caution and follow all directional signs.

Next up at number three. We are grateful for volunteers all year round but for one week in April, let's show them some extra love. Mayor David D. Ortega will declare Volunteer Appreciation Week in Scottsdale from April 21st through the 27th. Scottsdale has nearly 4,000 volunteers from feeding seniors, to shelving library books, volunteers provided almost 114,000 hours of service to the city, in fiscal year 2023. The value of their work equals more than \$3.4 million in savings without the additional costs to taxpayers. A huge thank you to all of our volunteers for making a difference in Scottsdale. Keep up the

amazing work. You can learn more about Scottsdale's volunteer program and hear from our William P. Schrader Volunteer Impact Award winner, Sam Samfilippo on our latest Podsdale episode available now. Visit scottsdaleaz.gov and search Podsdale.

At number two, get ready to ride. April is Bike Month. Celebrate Scottsdale's continued recognition as a bicycle friendly community. Tour de Scottsdale rolls into town at WestWorld April 11th through the 13th. The event offers challenging and scenic courses that will undoubtedly push the limits of cyclists. Cycle the Arts, the city's bike tour of Scottsdale's public art takes place, Sunday April 21. This year's course is 8 miles long and features 13 art installations. But the fun doesn't stop there. Calling all bike commuters on April 24th, ditch the usual morning grind and make a pit stop at one of our five celebratory stations for Bike to Work Day. Not only will you be part of a fantastic community event, but you will walk away with a commemorative bike month T-shirt and breakfast snacks. For complete event details, visit Scottsdaleaz.gov and search bike month.

Wrapping things up at number one, get ready to celebrate our planet. Scottsdale Earth Week runs from April 20th through the 27th from volunteer road cleanups and guided nature walks in you our beautiful Preserve, to an edible presentation and so much more. We have a full lineup of events for everyone. Our celebration kicks off with Earth Fest. Head to Cactus Park from 9 to 11 AM on Saturday, April 20th. Bring family and friends to explore sustainability-focused booths. This free event will also feature a tree and cactus planting ceremony to mark Scottsdale's 42nd year as a Tree City USA community. For all the details visit Scottsdaleaz.gov and search Earth Week. And that's Scottsdale's Fast Five for April, thanks for watching.

Mayor Ortega: Excellent. So as mentioned, we have over 4,000 volunteers in Scottsdale. Now, we have 2,650 employees. So, our volunteers outnumber substantially, the work that we do here in Scottsdale. Tonight, we have a Scottsdale Public Library Teen Volunteers Award, and we will have their leader Alexis Skidmore, Librarian, come forward and make a presentation.

[Time: 00:14:22]

Alexis Skidmore: Thank you so much. Honorable Mayor and Council, I am here today to present teen volunteers from the Scottsdale Public Library for recognition of their achievements. Scottsdale Public Library is quite proud of its very robust teen volunteering program. In the year 2023, we had 542 teen volunteers across all four branches of the library. Cumulatively, they worked 8,500 plus hours for an estimated labor value of over \$255,000 for the city. 66 of these teen volunteers qualified for the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. This award administered by the AmeriCorps and Points of Light is bestowed by the President of the United States and honors volunteers whose service positively impacts communities. Our volunteer program goes from age 12 to age 18 for our teens and so you can see down at the bottom how many hours each teen had to work in order to qualify for this award and we did have teens that worked more than 250 hours as individuals in the year 2023. Here are the amazing teen volunteers from the City of Scottsdale, Scottsdale Public Library. These teens help in a variety of ways with a variety of programs. They help in the library and out in the community performing outreach, working with younger children, helping shelve library materials, all aspects of the library are helped by

our teen volunteers. You guys are going to have to double up. There's too many of you.

Mayor Ortega: Also, I will note we have a full house with many proud parents here. So, it really is a joyous celebration today. And you can switch in the front to the back if someone is tall and do it that way. We're still working well. And some of you in front might even want to take it, you know, Council, let's stand up again and group together so we can get a picture with us. Bring them over here. There's still room to the right. You can get a window in between the shoulders here, guys. That's good. Yeah, that's probably fine. Okay. Let's look forward and big smiles. Thank you.

Alexis Skidmore: We are taking the teens to a special ceremony where they will receive recognition for their individual achievements.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. Thank you. I do want to point out one of the best additions to our Civic Center Library is a new entrance from the children's section directly to the splash pad. So that has really has raised our attendance and interest in our Civic Center Library.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

[Time: 00:20:14]

Mayor Ortega: So, during tonight's meeting, the Council may make a motion to recess into Executive Session to obtain legal advice on any applicable item on the agenda. If authorized by the Council, the Executive Session will be held immediately and will not be open to the public. The public meeting would then resume following an Executive Session. Also, for information per our Council Rules of Procedure, citizens attending City Council meetings shall observe the same rules of order and decorum applicable to members of the Council and city staff. Unauthorized remarks or demonstrations from the audience such as applause, et cetera, would disrupt our meeting and violation of these rules could result in removal from the meeting by security staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

[Time: 00:21:09]

Mayor Ortega: Our next Agenda item is public comment. Public comment is reserved for Scottsdale citizens, business owners and/or property owners to comment on non-agendized items that are within the Council's jurisdiction. Advocacy for or against a candidate or ballot measure during the City Council meeting is not allowed pursuant to state law and is therefore deemed not to be within the Council's jurisdiction. No official discussion or Council action can be taken on public comment and speakers are limited to three minutes to address the Council. If you wish to speak, you would have checked with our Clerk and therefore, I will now open public comment. We have two speakers requesting, and if you would come forward. We have Susan Bixler and Louise Lamb. Please come forward and state your place of residence and tell us what your thoughts are with three minutes or less. Thank you.

[Time: 00:22:08]

Susan Bixler: Good afternoon. My name is Susan Bixler, 5798 East Dusty Coyote Circle, Scottsdale, Arizona. The reason why my neighbor Karen Arnt and I are both on an HOA board in our little community are here today is to put in a request to have our community Los Alisos from the Path and Trail system. Los Alisos is located off 60th Street with crossroads of Scottsdale Road, Carefree Highway, and Cave Creek Road, Carefree Highway. Our neighborhood sits as far north and west in Scottsdale as the limits allow. For the past 18 months, we have been in communication with Susan Conklu of Transportation Commission Path and Trails. Our neighborhood was placed on the trail system in 1999, when Engle homes began the subdivision. These trails are nestled throughout our small community of 96 homes. It was made clear to us when Susan Conklu, Greg Davies, and Officer Rob Katzaroff from Crime Prevention were kind enough to walk the neighborhood with Karen, that the sidewalks, the streets, and park in our neighborhood are private property. The trails lead nowhere in our neighborhood. If you enter a trail from the desert or the park, it is a very short walk before you are on private property. Nowhere in the neighborhood are you able to walk any distance before you once again are entering private property.

It was explained that our signs needed to be updated and some additions made. This has been completed. Even with the signs there continues to be a numerous amount of traffic coming through the open desert and park area. We have also explained that we are concerned about safety. We've had communication with Lieutenant Lee Campbell letting us know that Officer Katzeroff or Police Aide Eric Eden would be available to conduct a residential security survey. That is greatly appreciated but it doesn't help with our request. We were advised to have a meeting with the Path and Trails Subcommittee, which is scheduled for this Thursday at 5:15. We are looking into placing a sidewalk gate at our front entrance which is private property as a starting point. If we're able to be released from the trail system, then planning can begin to allow us to fence in the rest of the neighborhood. If the trails led anywhere, we would understand that the trail system could be a benefit but that definitely is not the case. In closing, we need your support to help our community be removed from the trail system. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. Next, Louise Lamb.

[Time: 00:24:53]

Louise Lamb: Mayor Ortega, Councilmembers, I'm Louise Lamb, 7706 East Vista Drive. Prior to the 2022 City Council election, I stood here addressing the then Councilmembers. I quoted the City Charter which states that Scottsdale Council elections are to be nonpartisan. Well, that went nowhere. Only one Councilmember acknowledged that when I spoke later with her, and that was Solange Whitehead. The rest of the Council never mentioned it. People just continued as though it was a partisan election. This year, I really, I recently watched an interview with Tammy Caputi during which she said she also agreed that Scottsdale elections are to be nonpartisan. So, thank you, Solange, and Tammy. Whether you receive a ballot in the mail or go to the polls, your candidates are not listed as to party affiliation. That in itself tells you something. So, candidates during your campaign, please refrain from identifying your

political party if you have one. We need to elect on issues is, not party affiliation. Please don't make me have to come back here.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. I see no other speaker requests. Therefore, I will close public comment.

MINUTES

[Time: 00:26:27]

Mayor Ortega: Next, we will move to approval of the Minutes. I request a motion to approve Work Study Session Minutes of February 27, 2024.

Councilwoman Janik: So moved.

Vice Mayor Whitehead: Second.

Mayor Ortega: Moved and seconded. Please record your vote. Thank you. That's unanimous.

CONSENT AGENDA

[Time: 00:26:54]

Mayor Ortega: Next, we will move to Consent Agenda Items 1 through 12. Consent Agenda Items have a full complement of file information and generally are conforming so that they are grouped as one group. Do Councilmembers have questions on the Consent Agenda Items or request more information. Let me go to Councilmember Graham.

Councilmember Graham: Thank you, Mayor. I don't want to pull any Items from Consent. I wanted to make a remark on Number 6, and I wanted to ask staff a question on Number 5.

Mayor Ortega: Sure, go ahead.

Councilmember Graham: The staff contact is Dan Worth, but I don't know if he's going to deploy or designate, if he has a designee. He just put his hand in the air so?

Mayor Ortega: So, identify the item number as well.

Councilmember Graham: Thank you. It's Item Number 5, it's the Scottsdale Road Jomax Road to Dixileta Drive Project Engineering Services Contract. Thank you, Mr. Worth. Just a question on that. Are we, this is putting a roundabout in that project, is that correct?

Dan Worth: Mayor, Councilmember Graham, there is a roundabout within the scope of that project at the intersection of Scottsdale Road and Dynamite.

Councilmember Graham: And this is first roundabout we will be installing on Scottsdale Road in the city, is that correct?

Dan Worth: That is correct.

Councilmember Graham: Okay. Are there any more plans for roundabouts up and down Scottsdale Road?

Dan Worth: We have some additional projects for the north on Scottsdale Road. I can't tell you if we made a determination yet as to what kind of intersection traffic control we are going to have on those projects.

Councilmember Graham: Okay. And do you foresee a pretty large demand and the circumstances there where appropriate? We don't know what's going to happen to the west of that, do we?

Dan Worth: We anticipate there is going to be development to the west of it, but we don't see specifics. So, we do see volumes from all four approaches to that intersection that warrant a roundabout.

Councilmember Graham: Okay. Well, thank you, Mr. Worth.

Dan Worth: Thank you.

Councilmember Graham: And then last thing I want to remark on, Number 6, this is a Bond 2019 Project, and I was talking to Cindy before this, and she's saying something to me. It's number this is Item Number 6, 4, 4, okay, okay. So, Item Number 6, Mr. Worth is that? Item Number 4 by the way that was under budget. We are going to call on that. Mr. Worth, do you want to say anything about the Bond Project 41?

[Time: 00:29:45]

Dan Worth: Item Number 6, Councilmember Graham, is a preconstruction services contract for three bond projects and they all involve solar energy. Two were initially envisioned to be solar photovoltaic electrical energy in the Civic Center area. Project 41 is at Eldorado pool. It was originally envisioned to be solar hot water and we've made a determination that that doesn't make sense for several reasons so with this contract, we're going to explore the possibility of instead doing an additional solar electrical solar panel in the parking lot at Eldorado. And if we determine that that seems to be a good way to go, we are going to take it through the process with the Citizen Bond Oversight Committee to make a recommendation to Council to change the scope.

Councilmember Graham: Okay. So, the Bond Task Force has not reviewed that change yet; is that correct?

Dan Worth: That is correct.

Councilmember Graham: Okay. And there's going to be a solar parking shade structure on the Civic Center?

Dan Worth: There's going to be a solar parking shade structure in the parking lot surrounding this building as one of those two projects. The second project just specifies the Civic Center area. We are looking at some alternatives. One is the top deck of the Civic Center Library garage. The other is in the area beyond centerfield at the stadium in the parking area behind the stadium.

Councilmember Graham: Okay, well, very good. Excited to check off some more bond projects from 2019. And I know you are going to be coming back for that so I will be interested for the Task Force, what they report. Thank you, Mr. Worth. Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. I have Councilwoman Janik next.

[Time: 00:31:42]

Councilwoman Janik: Thank you, Mayor. Dan, this question is for you, and I know you know the answer. On Number 5, why are we doing roundabouts? It's my understanding there's a very compelling reason as opposed to stoplights.

Dan Worth: The, for one thing, it's a matter of policy adopted in our Transportation Action Plan that that is the intersection control method of choice. In every situation where the traffic volumes from each of the different legs warrant it. That's the option we are going to use.

Councilwoman Janik: And it was also my understanding that with roundabouts, the fatality rates at particular intersections is greatly reduced and that is why we have the policy in the first place.

Dan Worth: We have many studies that tell us that accidents are less frequent but certainly less damaging. We don't get t-bones at roundabouts. They are much safer in that regard than traffic signal intersections.

Councilwoman Janik: Thank you. And thanks for doing the research on that. It saves lives, saves Scottsdale lives. Thank you.

Dan Worth: Absolutely, thank you.

Mayor Ortega: And I will clarify one other thing about the roundabout at that location. Think of it as a pie. Three-quarters of it are in Scottsdale and one quarter is actually in Phoenix. It's just an odd ball place where the border changes and that is state land, and we would get the easement from the State Land Department to complete this entire circle and make that safe. The other aspect about speed is that we do hear complaints so to speak of people racing through lights and all of these other things. So that will slow the traffic and I think make people happy. Thank you. I would now open public comment for Consent Agenda Items 1 through 12. Seeing none, therefore I close public comment on Consent Agenda

Items. And do I have a motion?

Councilwoman Janik: I would like to make a motion to approve Items 1 through 12 on the Consent Agenda.

Vice Mayor Whitehead: Second.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. We have a motion and a second. Please record your vote. We are unanimous.

REGULAR AGENDA – ITEM 13

[Time: 00:34:05]

Mayor Ortega: Next, we move on to our Regular Agenda Items, Item 13, 14 and 15. Item Number 13 pertains to the Indian Bend Wash Underpass at Chaparral Road. So, it's a project for construction, bid, acceptance, and budget transfers. Our presenter is Nathan Domme, the Transportation Planning Manager.

Nathan Domme: Thank you. Good evening, Mayor Ortega, City Councilmembers. Tonight, I will be presenting on Item 13, the Construction Bid Award for Indian Bend Wash Underpass at Chaparral Road. On the resolution, we have four items. First is the construction bid award of \$3.6 million; second is the acceptance of a federal grant award in the amount of \$1 million and the local match of \$480,000; and then third and fourth are two budget appropriation transfers from the contingency funds to the project in the amount of the grant award and that local match. So, I wanted to go into a brief description of what the project entails. The project will provide a pedestrian bicycle underpass on the east side of Hayden Road, under Chaparral Road to connect the multiuse path with a grade separate crossing. This will remove the need for bicycles and pedestrians to interact with vehicles at that intersection, resulting in safer and better connection through a highly used pedestrian and bicycle corridor, as well as increased amount of green signal time for turning vehicles traveling from Hayden Road eastbound to Chaparral Road and ultimately the 101. Without having to wait for bicycles and pedestrians crossing it provides more access and more availability to get more cars through the intersection.

This is an excellent example of filling a gap of our extensive active transportation network, while providing a significant benefit to auto traffic. Also, this is a key design feature that's been used throughout the city. There are currently 87 under roadway grade separated crossings throughout our city for pedestrian and bicycle access. On the slide, we have a breakdown of the funding sources. The majority of the project is funded through federal grants as you can see in the column. Last fall we applied for additional CMAQ money after we knew the construction bid amount and knew it was higher than what we estimated. We received that through MAG and are moving forward with completing the project forward at \$5 million. On the slide, you can see a map of the improvements being laid out. The underpass is being placed, as I said previously, on east side of the intersection to provide that north-south connection through the multiuse path. Additional concrete improvements will be made at the interpoints of the underpass, as well as connecting new connections to the street level, as well as a

bus stop just north of Chaparral Road.

The map also shows the existing underpasses in the area. The one under Hayden Road is a repurposed golf cart underpass from when the area was a golf course, and the second one is a underpass that was put in in 2021. All of these features provide an example of maintaining and improving our transportation system which is a focal point in our 2022 Transportation Action Plan. That is my presentation and I thank you for your time tonight.

Councilmember Graham: I have a question for you, when Mayor.

Mayor Ortega: Good. We have Councilmember Graham and Vice Mayor Whitehead and then Councilmember Durham.

Councilmember Graham: Nathan.

Mayor Ortega: Oh, excuse me, we do have one request to speak, so I would ask Lee Kauftheil to come forward and address Item 13. Thank you, sir.

[Time: 00:38:10]

Lee Kauftheil: All right. The name is Lee Kauftheil, home address 7726 E. Thomas Road. I just wanted to quickly come up. I use this area for commuting home a lot. This is definitely a gap I have experienced and when I saw that this was one of the things that Scottsdale is looking to do, I was very excited. I think this is definitely one of the gaps when you have to get up and you are riding and then you have to stop and then wait and then you go through. It also allows good access to Club SAR, since this will allow people on the west side to connect over without having to cross traffic which is just great. So, I just wanted to just get up here and say I'm really excited for this project, and I think it's a great example of looking at the need and filling that gap. So, thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you very much, Lee. With that, I will close public comment. At this time, we would go on to Councilmember Graham, Vice Mayor Whitehead, and Councilmember Durham, on this project.

Councilmember Graham: Good presentation, Nathan. Thank you, Mayor. Is this part of the ALCP, Arterial Life Cycle Program?

Nathan Domme: This is not. This is CMAQ funding, transportation assistance funding, and local funding.

Councilmember Graham: So, when I was on Transportation Commission many years ago, we talked about doing this and I just, I can't express to you how excited I am for this to be happening. This is a major gap in our multiuse network, isn't it?

Nathan Domme: Absolutely, yes.

Councilmember Graham: The lack of an underpass underneath Chaparral Road just has a very deleterious effect on the multiuse experience, I would say. Would you agree with that?

Nathan Domme: I'm sorry. Can you repeat what, I lost you in the?

Councilmember Graham: I was kind of pontificating for a while, wasn't I?

Nathan Domme: Well, I lost what the statement was.

Councilmember Graham: I would have stopped listening too.

Nathan Domme: I didn't mean to.

Councilmember Graham: The, now is there going to be, because, I hear a little bit of feedback. Are you having trouble hearing me?

Nathan Domme: Yes, there's an echo happening.

Councilmember Graham: Okay, there's a feedback. Can we twist the knob or press the button or pull the lever? Okay. Am I doing something wrong? Move it closer? Test. Okay.

Nathan Domme: That works.

Councilmember Graham: You can hear me now?

Nathan Domme: Yep.

[Time: 00:41:15]

Councilmember Graham: What are we? So, northbound, right hand northbound, righthand turn bays. Are you extending the right-hand turn bay, the distance?

Nathan Domme: We are not extending the right-hand turn bay.

Councilmember Graham: So that's kind of an anomalous feature of this intersection. You can maybe fit one or two cars that stack before they start stacking into Hayden Road. Did you guys look at? Were there not funds available to extend that turning lane?

Nathan Domme: We looked at it. It was because that is a bridge right there are, it was too costly to extend the bridge. We believe if we remove the pedestrians and bikes from the area, it will alleviate that a little bit, but it was too costly to widen the bridge.

Councilmember Graham: Do you agree that's a deficiency though of this intersection, right?

Nathan Domme: I would agree that's short right turn bay, yeah, absolutely.

Councilmember Graham: And I live in the area. I'm familiar with all features of it. Did you guys consider an underpass on the north side of Chaparral Road? And what made you decide between north and south versus east and west?

Nathan Domme: We decided on this one because of the direction of the Indian Bend Wash Path, that it's a north-west amenity, the path goes north south, as well as the turning movement that's going from Hayden to Chaparral. So, this was the necessary improvement, northbound, the north side, switching from one side of the Indian Bend Wash to the other side would not have the same volumes as going southbound crossing Chaparral Road.

Councilmember Graham: I would have thought differently because most of the traffic, on the north and south bound traffic is on the west side of Hayden Road. Would you agree with that?

Nathan Domme: I know a lot of bicyclists use the westside and then a lot of pedestrians are using the eastside.

Councilmember Graham: The pedestrians use the eastside to avoid the bicycles on the westside because they are going pretty fast there.

Nathan Domme: I can't speak to their purpose. I just know that in that park we have counters on both sides, both at Indian School and then Chaparral Park. We see more volumes of pedestrians on Chaparral Park and more volumes of bicyclists on the westside.

Councilmember Graham: Okay, I mean in a perfect world, we would have had one under both but I can see why you chose that. I am very excited for this. This is the time of investment that I think will really be a quality-of-life investment. Thank you, Nathan. Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Otega: Thank you, Vice Mayor Whitehead.

[Time: 00:43:30]

Vice Mayor Whitehead: Well, without pontificating, I will agree with Councilmember Graham that this is a much-needed fix. And I think the reason we have pedestrian traffic on the eastside is because we have parks and on the west side it's just simply a path to get to work, the one that I take. So, anyway, good job on that. Good job on getting grant money as always, we stretch our tax dollars further. So, with that, I would like to Motion to adopt Resolution 13070, authorizing the Construction Bid Award IFB-092023-114 the amount of \$3,636,937.10 to J. Banicki Construction, Inc. And number two acceptance of an additional federal grant award in the amount of up to \$1,024,256 in congestion mitigation air quality funds for a total of \$1,505,750. Number three, a FY 2023/24 capital contingency budget appropriation transfer in the amount of up to \$1,024,256 to Capital Project Indian Ben Wash Underpass at Chaparral Road to be funded by CMAQ federal funds. And four, a FY 23/24 Transportation

Fund capital contingency budget appropriation transfer in the amount of \$481,494 to capital project Indian Bend Wash underpass at Chaparral Road to be funded by transportation 0.2% sales tax.

Mayor Ortega: Second. Thank you. We have a motion and a second. I do want to point out that remember Indian Bend, all of the construction whether it's bridge widening or so forth has to be approved by the Corps of Engineers, which is a federal assisted project, and a major floodway. So, it's got to perform in that manner and certainly, we have bridges just the right width without creating a big freeway effect across our amenity. So, we have a motion and a second. Please record your vote. Thank you. We are unanimous. Want to clear the board? Okay. Thank you.

REGULAR AGENDA – ITEM 14

[Time: 00:46:17]

Mayor Ortega: Moving on, we're going to Item Number 14. Item Number 14 as agendized will be a presentation of the proposed ballot measure on funding for parks and recreational facilities and the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. We will have presenters Sonia Andrews, City Treasurer, Ben Lane, City Clerk, and Sherry Scott, City Attorney. We want to conduct the complete presentation and then go directly to public comment. I'm told and I have a list of many people wishing to speak. So, we would withhold our own Council questions and so forth until after public comment. With that, let's proceed with our Treasurer Sonia Andrews.

Sonia Andrews: Thank you, Mayor. Thank you, Council. Next slide, please. Before I start, I would like to recognize the Task Force members and all the city staff who spent countless hours over the last year working on this proposed ballot that's before you tonight. Most of them are here in the audience, so I just wanted to say thank you. Next slide. So based on the Task Force recommendation, we are proposing that Council ask the voters to decide whether we should extend or replace the 0.2% sales tax that is expiring in 2025, with a reduced 0.15 sales tax for another 30 years for our parks and recreation facilities and for our Preserve. Next slide. The 0.2% tax that is expiring in 2025, was originally approved by voters 30 years ago to buy land in the Preserve so that we can protect our views, the animals, and for our residents and visitors to enjoy. The 0.2 tax is no longer needed today. The City has purchased and owned 30,500 acres of the Preserve. But what we do need today and for the next 30 years is a 0.15 tax for capital asset renew and replacement for our aging parks and also to increase our maintenance and protection of our parks and recreation facilities and the Preserve. Next slide.

The impact of this ballot measure on our sales tax is a reduction from 8.05%, to 8%. So right now, if you shop in the City of Scottsdale, you will be paying an 8.05% sales tax. The City's portion of that sales tax is 1.75%. With this ballot measure, that sales tax rate will go down to 8%, effective July 1 of 2025 with the City's portion going down to 1.7%. Next slide. So why is this 0.15% tax needed for the next 30 years? Next slide. The City spent the last 30 years constructing our system of parks and recreation facilities and acquiring the 30,500 acres of Preserve. That's what we spent the last 30 years doing with our citizens' tax dollars is building our robust system of parks and recreation facilities and Preserve. Today, we have almost 1,000 acres of parks and a large system of park amenities to maintain, and we have over 30,500 of preserves to protect. These are necessary costs to maintain and protect our parks and recreation

system and Preserve to continue our high standards and quality of life for future generations. And there's limited funding in the General Fund to do that. Our parks and rec system has become quite large with a lot of amenities and with the rising costs a burden to maintain and replace all of these assets as they age and protect the parks is too great of a burden to place solely on our General Fund. Next slide.

And this is a system that has grown over the years. Today we have almost 1,000 acres of parks, 45 parks. Variety of recreational facilities, volleyball courts, tennis courts, 120 miles of paved park pathways, significantly more than our neighboring communities, and not only that, we have a very high level standards at each of these facilities. 30 years ago, maybe we had 25 parks and half the facilities and maybe the General Fund could have carried the burden of maintaining and replacing assets for a much smaller system. But today our system is much, much larger and requires a more consistent and dedicated funding source. Next slide. Our parks are aging, right now our Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt parks which are highlighted in orange over here are either at or over 50 years old. In the next 20 to 30 years, the other parks will start to age as well. And we have to start replacing and renewing the assets and the facilities in these aging parks and it costs money to do that. Next slide.

[Time: 00:52:06]

And this slide shows you how we currently fund capital replacement and renewal from major asset systems. To the right, you will see our transportation system is one of our major asset systems. We invest a lot in our transportation system, and we have a dedicated 0.2% transportation tax, a dedicated 0.1% arterial life cycle tax and also our MAG funding, the Maricopa Association of Government funding to support the maintenance and renewal and replacement of our transportation system. For our water and sewer system, we have our utility rates. There's a capital component in our utility rates. We have impact fees, and we also have a 2% asset replacement reserve that we maintain to ensure that our water and sewer systems are well maintained and renewed and replaced as they age. For our parks and recreation system and the Preserve, we currently rely on the General Fund and bond programs. For example, the 2000 Bond Program provided some money for parks in the recent 2019 Program did as well.

So, what we are proposing is the 0.15 sales tax, could provide a dedicated consistent funding source so that the burden is not all on the General Fund. The sales tax funding proposed also allows for tourists and visitors to pay for their burden, their share of the burden, since bond programs tax our residents only. So, by using the General Fund and just bond programs, the burden is placed on our property owners and our residents. By proposing a sales tax, that burden can also shift to our tourists and visitors who also enjoy our parks and our Preserve. Next slide. So how will this 0.15 tax be used? A lot of details are provided in the Task Force meeting materials and the Task Force Report and also a detailed presentation was given to Council in the February 27th Work Study Session. All of that available is online for anybody who would like to get into all the details. So, I'm going to basically present this at a high level since we have already gone through this department by department, all the details, back in February. So, next slide. Here's a link to all the information if someone wanted to get into all the details.

There are three categories of uses that I would group the proposed 0.15 tax for. Next slide. The first

category would be for capital improvements for our park and recreational facilities. And as we talked about, our parks are aging, and this is a list of all the renewal and replacement needs currently that is needed for our aged Indian Bend Wash parks and will be needed as the other parks start to age. We have restroom remodels, renovation of multiuse paths, replacing skateparks, splash pads, building new dog parks, pickle ball courts, and such. There's a huge list of improvements that our communities have told us that they want. Next slide. So how are these projects identified? They are identified through master planning process. For the Eldorado Park, which is 57 years old and the Vista del Camino Park, which is 53 years old. The Master Plan was completed in 2019-2020 and it was approved by the Design Review Board, the Planning Commission, as well as the City Council.

We are in the process of completing our Indian School Park Master Plan. It is underway and expected to be completed this year. These master plans involve a lot of community outreach and input. And through these master plans, citizens are identifying the specific projects that they want the city to either renovate, replace, or construct for their parks. Next slide. So, here is an example of the Master Plan that was approved back in 2019-2020 for the Eldorado Park. And I know it's really small but basically it lists a lot of renovations of multiuse field areas, playgrounds, skateparks, improved parking, improved facilities, ball fields. A lot of these projects, I think somewhere around 45% of these projects have already been approved by boards, commissions, and the Council. So, this is where the list of projects come from and the good thing about the sales tax is each year, we will project what we collect from the sales tax and based on what our projections are, we will then present what projects we think can fit into that sales tax projection for Council to approve. So, Council has ultimate control over the list of projects that will be approved and the amount of money that will be spent on each project because each of these projects based on the revenue projections each year from this tax will be brought before Council for approval. Next slide.

[Time: 00:57:38]

The other capital improvement that the Task Force recommends is one-time funding for some very critical WestWorld improvement needs. And, again, this is through the WestWorld Master Plan to address the drainage issues and the shade and paving and access issues that is critically needed so that the events will not be interrupted so that WestWorld can continue to provide the high level of service that it provides. And again, a lot of details on this WestWorld improvements were presented by Assistant City Manager Bill Murphy in our February Work Study. So, I will not be going into any details on this. Next slide. The next category of need and what the 0.15 tax will be used for is additional maintenance and protection for our parks and our Preserve. Next slide. This slide shows you a comparison of the parks and recreation operating budget for this fiscal year, compared to Tempe, Chandler, and Peoria. And as you can see, each city has a different number of parks, different park acreages, different facilities, and Chandler doesn't have a stadium, the rest of us do.

As you can see, our operating budget for parks and recreation is not significantly higher than our peer cities yet we have significantly more sports courts and facilities and we provide a significantly higher level of service. So, to maintain and provide that high level of service, the proposed 0.15 tax is asking for an additional \$2.8 million a year to fund our parks and recreation operating budget. Next slide. The

proposed 0.15 tax is also asking for \$1 million per year to increase our police park ranger program. And this is a comparison of the current park ranger program staffing that is in each of these cities. As you can see, Tempe has 14 park rangers, Peoria, Gilbert have eight park rangers, Chandler has four and we have three. We also have the Preserve that nobody else has in those comparisons. So, the proposal that's included in the 0.15 tax is to increase our park ranger program to eight FTEs, three more police park rangers, park ranger sergeant, and a crime lab tech. Next slide.

The third category of funding is dedicated funding for our Preserve, and for fire fuel mitigation. Next slide. As you know, the Preserve has over 700 species of plants and animals. Protecting the wildlife habitat, archaeological, cultural, history protection, and daily maintenance of our Preserve is really important to ensure the quality of life and that the Preserve remains enjoyable for years to come. Again, Kroy went through the details of all of this in our February 27th Work Study Session, so I won't be covering all of that, but in general, we are looking for 3.8 million a year, to ensure that we have adequate funding and dedicated funding to protect our Preserve, the wildlife habitat, and also managing the invasive plant species and fire fuel mitigation. Next slide.

[Time: 01:01:29]

We have ongoing risks of heavy fire fuel loads in and around the Preserve. Especially with drier summers, we are at a higher risk of wildland fires. And we also have increasing technical rescue needs in the Preserve. So, the 0.15 tax will also provide some funding \$2 million a year for brush patrol, chemical treatments of the heavy fire fuel loads, fire fuel management, and additional resource for technical rescue. Next slide. So how will the 0.15 tax be distributed? Next slide. Over the 30 years, 48% will be for park improvements and only 7% will be for WestWorld because those are one-time critical needs for WestWorld. So those two components, the WestWorld 7% and the park improvements 48% are capital improvement needs or capital replacement needs. The others, park and recreation maintenance, rangers, taking care of the Preserve, and technical rescue and fire mitigation, those are operating needs, and note that there are no capital improvements for the Preserve in this proposed allocation. And we will talk about that in a little bit. Next slide.

So that pie chart that I shared was the allocation over 30 years. This is the annual allocation that's being proposed by the Task Force and the annual distribution will be dictated and codified by Council ordinance. The current 0.15 tax generates \$25 million a year currently. Over the 30 years, it will increase and decrease based on economic conditions. So annually, we are proposing that the tax will go first towards paying the debt service for the one-time capital improvements for WestWorld that will be dealt with or handled with a 20-year debt issuance. So, it's only for 20 years that the allocation will be for. Then after that, it will be allocated, the revenues will be allocated by percentage, and again, we also shared this at our Work Study Session and explained this to Council. 51% will go towards park capital improvements which is the replacement and renewal of our aging parks. And then, the rest of it as you can see on the slide will go towards the operations and increasing our maintenance, police rangers, fire fuel mitigation, and technical rescue. Next slide.

So, what is the cost to our citizens of this 0.15%? Next slide. Currently at the 0.2% rate an average

household, it would cost \$4.95 a month. With a ballot measure it would cost \$3.71 a month for the average household and this average household cost is based on the fiscal year '22/23 Consumer Expenditure Survey for the Phoenix, Mesa, Scottsdale metropolitan statistical area, produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. So now, we might argue that Scottsdale households spend a little bit more, perhaps \$5 a month or but the point is, it's not a significant amount a month. Next slide. So how will citizens know this tax will be spent as approved by the voters? Next slide. We have a system of compliance and controls in place. Well, first of all, the ballot language restricts the use the 0.15 tax and as I talked about the Council ordinance will also codify the use of the tax. And our City Attorney Sherry will go over that at the end of this presentation.

We will also be required by the national government accounting standards to account for the revenues in a separate fund. So, it cannot be commingled with the General Fund or any other fund. We will be required to account for it in separate funds. We will also have the Parks and Recreation Commission and the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission provide oversight of line item and project spending. And as I said earlier, the Council still ultimately approves the annual spending of this 0.15 tax through the budget process and if it's a capital project, not only will Council approve the spending through the budget process, but Council will also approve the construction contract for the capital project. And we have a year-end audit by an independent C.P.A. firm as well. Next slide. So, what happens if the 0.15 tax is not approved? Next slide.

[Time: 01:07:03]

I want to go back to how we fund capital funding for our major assets. Again, we talked about having dedicated funding that doesn't rely on the General Fund for our transportation system, our water and sewer system. So, if we did not have the 0.15 tax, the parks and recreation system will continue to rely on the General Fund and Bond Programs. That's how we fund the robust parks and recreation system and the care of the Preserve. And so, I wanted to, next slide. So, this chart that I showed you earlier where over 30 years we were allocating the amounts for park improvements and WestWorld, those we would be able to rely, we would rely on the General Fund or future bond programs. Those are the capital improvements that we can have a bond program for. On the other side, the other 50%, we can rely on the General Fund, but we cannot be bonded because those are operating costs, so we cannot ask for bond money for those. So, all of those will have to rely on the General Fund. Next slide.

Let's talk about the General Fund for a minute. The General Fund, the priority for the General Fund is core operations, public safety operations, core operations, public work operations, and all that. And there are many competing needs. And as you all know, we are losing residential rental tax revenues starting in January of 2025. That's \$15 million a year that the city will lose, \$10 million of it coming out of General Fund. We will also be using state-shared revenue with a flat tax and also our population being a smaller piece of the pie, we will continue to not have significant growth in our state shared revenues. Our property taxes are also very limited because of state law, our property tax levy can't grow more than 2% a year plus new construction. So, looking at sales tax, state shared, and property taxes that's pretty much 75% of our General Fund. Next slide. And this chart shows you the last ten years of capital investment in our parks and recreation facilities over the last ten years relying on the General Fund. This does not include the bond programs that have paid for some of our new parks and facilities. So, as you

can see, relying on the General Fund, the funding will be limited and inconsistent. And we may not be able to keep up with the annual asset depreciation of our park facilities if we continue to rely on the General Fund. Next slide.

So, the next question, is there \$200 million or more of surplus money in the Preserve Tax Fund that can be used? Next slide. So, the Preserve Tax Fund, if you remember the earlier slide, we talked about the Preserve Tax, the 0.2 tax that's expiring in 2025 was originally approved by voters to purchase land. And there's also a second Preserve Tax approved by voters in 2004 that doesn't expire until 2034, that is being used continuously to pay down the debt for the preserve land that has been purchased. So even now we don't need the 0.2% any more to buy land, there is still outstanding debt that the City is paying for the land that we purchased over the last 30 years. So whatever fund balance we have in that fund is used to pay debt service right now. It cannot be repurposed for other purposes for these maintenance and asset replacement or park ranger or preserve fuel mitigation purposes. It must remain in the fund to be used for land and capital improvements in the Preserve and also to pay the debt. And as I said earlier, the Preserve Taxes are still needed for debt outstanding, majority of the debt has been refinanced to a low interest rate of 1.3%. And if Council wanted to, Council can ask voters to repurpose future tax collections of the remaining 0.15 tax that doesn't expire until 2023. But keep in that mind that that is needed for debt service. So, if Council wanted to repurpose that for future tax collection, we will have to make sure the debt is paid first. Next slide.

[Time: 01:12:21]

There's a lot of numbers on this slide but I am going to walk you through this. This is our current proposed five-year plan for the Preserve Tax Fund. As you can see, the column in gray, the first column of numbers, that represents our projections for this year. We project that we will collect \$34 million from the 0.2% Preserve Tax, \$26 million from the 0.15% Preserve Tax, and then we have to pay debt principal and interest of \$35 million and we will expect to end the year with \$137 million of fund balance in this preserve tax. Our remaining debt outstanding is \$185 million. So the following year in 24/25, as you can see, the same revenue sources, expenditures, principal and interest, and some proposed improvements to trailheads and all that, we will end the year with \$156 million in the fund and \$149 million of debt outstanding. And then you can see the following year, 25/26, I highlighted in orange, a \$75 million expenditure for land and capital improvements.

The Preserve Commission and staff have been working on a capital improvement plan that they hope to bring to Council soon to present expenditures for a wildlife land bridge, expenditures for some small parcels of land to purchase and additional trail improvements that right now they are projecting a preliminary estimate of \$75 million together with \$5 million, it's \$80 million. So that's the preliminary projections currently that they have. That number could be higher or lower, but it is right now the preliminary projection and the timing of when we spend that will also change. But for discussion's sake and for our five-year plan I wanted to show you that \$75 million will be and could be used for land and capital improvement needs. So, with that, we will need to continue collecting the 0.15 tax through fiscal year 27/28 to be able to pay off all the remaining debt. And at that time, once the debt is all paid off, Council can decide to sunset that 0.15 tax early and request voter approval to terminate that tax. Next slide.

So, the 0.15 tax that's requested is a 30-year tax for Parks and Recreation and Preserve. It provides dedicated funding and ensures funding for our capital reinvestment and replacement of our parks and recreation system. It provides an assurance to our citizens and also businesses that want to locate here or our existing businesses of our commitment to maintain and protect these assets in the Scottsdale quality of life. Next slide. And again, the ballot measure will reduce our current tax from 8.05% to 8%. And next slide. The cost for an average household is \$3.71 a month. Next slide. And at 1.7%, we will still be one of the lowest in terms of sales tax rate across the Valley. Next slide. So, the request tonight is for Council to approve the resolution to refer this ballot measure to the voters. I am going to turn it over to City Clerk Ben Lane now to talk about the ballot language.

[Time: 01:16:36]

Ben Lane: Thank you, Sonia. Mayor and Council, all ballot language we will be going over today was reviewed by our City Attorney's Office and also outside counsel. I will be presenting two ballot options for your consideration tonight. Next slide, please. So, this is Option A, and this is a full text option, or part of Option A. But Option A is a Task Force recommended language which was discussed with the Council at its February 27th Work Study Meeting and was last discussed by the Task Force at its March 11th meeting. As I mentioned earlier, this is a full text language. The full text includes an official title, which explains the measure, a descriptive title which explains the action being requested and also yes/no statements basically indicating what occurs if the item is approved and what happens if it isn't approved.

Due to the length of the ballot language, it is unlikely the full text will be presented on the ballot; however, the full text will be provided in the publicity pamphlet that will be provided to each household with a registered voter in Scottsdale. And it will also be provided by the ballot language by the pamphlet that is provided by Maricopa County as well. The key section for this language is the extend and reduce wording. That language is highlighted throughout this full text option, and also the tag line text option that we will be discussing shortly. After the Task Force considered and reaffirmed its wanting to stay with the extend and reduce, a suggestion was made to add the word "solely" and "sole" in the appropriate area to better explain the purpose of the tax and what it was being used for. So, I did add that word here, just for clarification purposes. The other reason why I added the word "solely" into this example as well is because the descriptive title is limited to 50 words and so adding the word "solely" to the descriptive title takes it to the 50-word maximum. So, I just wanted Council to be aware of that. So that's again, that's the full text option. It's unlikely that it will be printed on the ballot because of the length of it.

Next slide, please. This is the tag line text. And this is what is more likely that is going to be printed on the ballot. And again, that's due, as we discussed in previous Council meetings, that's due to the overall length of the November ballot. It is a very long ballot. There's a Presidential race, there's a U.S. Senate race, there are multiple U.S. House races, there are many state offices up for election, county offices, and many other ballot measures besides ours as well. So, again this tagline text uses the words extend and reduce and it also adds the word "solely" in. For the tag line text summary, there is a 50-word limit as well. And this is currently at 47 words with the word "solely" included. The yes/no statements would

be the exact same as found in the full text option. Next slide, please.

So, the second option for Council consideration tonight is Option B. This came from a discussion by the City Council at its February 27th Work Study Meeting. Again, this is the full text option. The key here is rather than use the word "extend and reduce," the Council suggested using the word "replace and reduce." So, again, that language was changed here to reflect that, and again the word solely was added as that was another Council suggestion. So, with the descriptive title here, when you add the word "solely" in we are also at the 50-word limit here. Next slide, please. So, this is Option B for the tagline text, again it utilizes the words replace and reduce, rather than extend and reduced and it also adds the word solely in. With this, we are at 47 words of the 50-word limit. But those are the two options being presented to the Council tonight. And with that, I will turn it over to Sherry Scott to discuss the ordinance that also relates to this ballot language.

[Time: 01:21:24]

Sherry Scott: Thank you, Mayor and Council, Sherry Scott, City Attorney. I'm going to be discussing the ordinance that you saw mentioned in the ballot language and Sonia also went through some of the major pieces of the ordinance but just to make sure you understand the details of the ordinance, we'll go through it as quickly as possible. Next slide. So, the ordinance number is 4633, Ordinance Number 4633 mandates that all revenues from the subject tax shall be used to improve and maintain city parks and recreational facilities and that would include some limited WestWorld capital improvements, to maintain and protect the Preserve, to increase police and fire resources related to citywide parks and the Preserve, for the benefit of all geographic areas within the city, but with an emphasis on restoring and updating the Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt and other aged parks. Next slide.

As Sonia mentioned earlier in her presentation, this ordinance will provide that the tax revenues shall be distributed as set forth below. This is in Section 1 of the ordinance, 51% for city park improvement needs, 18% for McDowell Sonoran Preserve maintenance and protection, and 14% for city parks and recreational facilities maintenance. I just want to point out that does not include WestWorld maintenance, it specifically excludes WestWorld. 10% to the Scottsdale Fire Department for citywide related needs within the purpose of the tax, which specifically includes but is not limited to technical rescue teams for the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and city parks and for fire fuel mitigation around the Preserve and in and around city parks for the protection and maintenance of the Preserve and city parks, and 7% for increased Preserve and city park police ranger units and park and Preserve security. Next slide. The ordinance also addresses debt. Debt may be used to fund capital improvements. For instance, debt will be used to fund limited WestWorld capital improvements, but the debt is limited to no more than \$4,500,000 annually in debt service payments. And it must be paid first. The debt must be paid first as Sonia explained earlier pursuant to city policies. Next slide.

The ordinance also provides appropriate oversight for this tax. First, the City Treasurer will prepare an annual accounting of this tax for the City Council for the life of the tax. Second, the Parks and Recreation Commission will serve as citizen oversight as it relates to the portion of the tax for parks. Likewise, the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission will serve as oversight as it relates to the portion of the tax for

the Preserve. And finally, the Council will have approval within the confines of the ordinance and the ballot question language. So, the buck will stop with the City Council. Ordinance effective date. We have added a provision in the ordinance that if the voters approve the 2025, 0.15% tax, the ordinance shall be effective as of July 1, 2025. So, the thought is if the Council wants to approve this, you will approve the ordinance tonight, but it will be effective only if the voters approve this ballot measure and the date it would be effective in that case is July 1, 2025. That's after the current tax expires. Next slide.

There is a possible additional ordinance provision that was discussed during your Work Study Session. It's not in your packet, but I wanted to include it in my presentation in case you wanted to add it to the ordinance that you have in front of you tonight and that is Section 5. This ordinance cannot be modified except by an affirmative vote of at least 5 members of the City Council. If you want to add this provision to the ordinance, your motion needs to state that. Next slide. So just a review for the Council, your action tonight will be to adopt Resolution Number 13092, but you need to indicate in your motion whether you prefer Option A or Option B. Also, the addition of the word "solely" and "sole" is not in your current packet and if you wanted to include that language in the ballot measure, your motion needs to state that as well. Likewise, for the adoption of Ordinance Number 4633, again if you want to include the super majority provision in Section 5, your motion needs to state that. And that concludes staff's presentation.

Mayor Ortega: Well, thank you very much. At this point we will move to public comment on Item Number 14. I have a list of 16 speakers. As you come forward, I'm requesting that you, your time is limited to two minutes and as you come forward, just state your place of residence and we will begin with Carla, then Honorable Mary Manross, and Kerry Olsson.

[Time: 01:27:59]

Carla: Hi, my name is Carla, I'm a 60-year resident of south Scottsdale. The last 35 across Miller in Peaceful Valley. I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak. 30 years ago, I stood in this exact same spot and asked the sitting Council to let its citizens vote to preserve the McDowell Mountains and to tax themselves to do so. Thankfully the Council said yes, and then the residents overwhelmingly said yes. And we kept our word and Scottsdale now has the largest urban preserve in the nation, which adds greatly to our quality of life, our economy, and our air quality. Now it's time to look at Scottsdale's other open space, our park system, which is sorely in need of reinvestment and increased maintenance. So much so that the General Fund cannot handle it. And that's why we are proposing this dedicated funding source which will take care of the parks, provide ongoing care for the Preserve, critical infrastructure for WestWorld, and increased public safety protections citywide, all while lowering the sales tax.

Now, you may still have questions, and after 15 months of hard work by your citizen-appointed Task Force, the answers are there. As well as an ordinance which will give clear direction on how the money is spent and provide citizen oversight so there are protections as to how this money will be treated. It's time to ask your residents if they want to support, protect, and preserve Scottsdale. The Citizen Task Force survey and subsequent polling shows that your residents clearly want to. So, I'm going to ask you

the same question I asked 30 years ago, and that's, please let your citizens vote on this. It's time. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. Mary Manross, Kerry Olsson, and Steven Coluccio. In fact, if you want to line up, it might be faster.

[Time: 01:30:16]

Mary Manross: Good evening, Mayor and Council. It's really terrific to be here. It's kind of fun to be down here looking up there for a change. Carla was articulate in stating our position on what we feel about these two ballot measures that you are going to discuss tonight. I'm going to come from a little different direction since we have heard tonight and the last several months, we have heard a lot of details about what is proposed and what would be included. But I go back only 52 years to my time here in Scottsdale. I can't remember 1968, but that was the first time that we had private jets taking off in our airport, which started in 1942, of course during World War II. So that was before my time. That was before we really had an active, terrific airpark as we have today.

And the reason why I bring that up is because we have had such vision for the last many, many decades. We then had the Greenbelt that began in the early 70s, in the middle 70's for those who may be newer to our community. I was fortunate to be involved in that too. I was on the Park Commission and Chair of the Park Commission at the time. And then of course we had the McDowell Sonoran Preserve when I was on Council and mayor. And what foresight that took, that along with our airpark which has a great job generator for our community in the valley and the state and our Greenbelt and our Preserve and even SkySong, which has been wonderful to rehabilitate and really move ahead the older part of our community that needs that kind of support.

So, all of those things are mentioned because it takes long-term vision, not a year or two ahead. We are talking about 10, 20, 30, 40 years ahead and that's what this measure would do. We're finally going to look ahead about the long term about what the needs are in this community. And I can tell you when I was Mayor, the first thing that everyone said to me, everyone, was how beautiful and how clean and how safe our community was. And this is going to help us to maintain that and to really maintain this sustainability of our Preserve and all of our parks and our Greenbelt through all of the initiatives in these measures. So, I ask you to please take that into consideration and look ahead to the long-term. We have always stepped out and did things that other communities haven't done. And thank goodness we have been very successful at it since 1951 when we became a city. We need to continue to have that kind of foresight and that kind of initiative and move forward. And I ask you too, just for one second, since my time is up, I just saw the timer. The P.B.A., the Permanent Base Adjustment.

Mayor Ortega: That's another subject.

Mary Manross: Yeah, I know it is. I won't be talking on it but anyway I ask you support that. It is very important also.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you very much. Next, we will have Kerry Olsson and then Steven Coluccio, and then Dr. Sonnie Kirtley.

[Time: 01:33:30]

Kerry Olsson: Hi, Mayor and Councilmembers, my name is Kerry Olsson, I'm a native of Arizona. I'm a resident of Scottsdale and the Vice Chair for the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission. I'm very appreciative of the foresight and the community support to fund the acquisition and development of the Preserve. As a result of the Scottsdale citizens voting to tax themselves, we have acquired an investment of over \$1.6 billion, the most impressive nature preserve of the Sonoran Desert. The Preserve is intended to be available for future generations as Scottsdale and the Valley of the Sun continues to grow.

Unfortunately, left out of that original funding to acquire and develop the Preserve was the funding to maintain it. The funding is needed and has been discussed today, to maintain access points and maintain the 230 miles of trails, to monitor and ensure the health of the animal life for sustainability, to help protect the plants if invasive species, to prepare and protect the Preserve from fires that are ravaging our desert, to provide education to visitors to appreciate the beauty and value of the Sonoran Desert, to ensure a sanctuary for passive recreation for our citizens, and to keep everyone who enters the Preserve safe. I ask you to vote in support of the proposed ballot measures as recommended by the Protect and Preserve Task Force and supported by the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission to fund the management of Scottsdale's greatest natural asset. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you, sir. Next, we have Sonnie Kirtley, Maryann McAllen, and Raoul Zubia. Oh, sorry, I missed Steven Coluccio. Oh, sorry. Steven and then Dr. Sonnie Kirtley.

[Time: 01:35:34]

Steve Coluccio: That's not the first time that's happened. Kerry is always a hard act to follow. My name is Steve Coluccio. I live at 8819 North 85th Court. I have been a resident of Scottsdale for 21 years. I'm the current Chair of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission and a volunteer with the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy. I attended the February 27th City Council Work Study for the Preserve Tax expiring next year. I noted that there were questions regarding the details of our request for maintenance and operations of the Preserve, as well as some of the improvements that are needed. I have been on the Preserve Commission for three plus years now and I'm personally aware of the many, many hours that we have worked on to refine the costs on everything from daily operations, right down to how much it costs to clean a toilet. I have that number. As a volunteer for the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, I encounter hundreds of visitors each month. Many are Scottsdale residents, but many others are also from other parts the state, the United States, as well as from around the world. We get about 1 million visitors each year. They often inquire about where they should eat, shop, or sight see in Scottsdale. Hotels bring their guests to the trailheads because they know the Preserve is a safe and beautiful place to experience the desert. Many of these visitors express how wonderful the facilities and the trails are. The bottom line is we need to maintain the Preserve's condition at a high level in order to help the city continue to draw these visitors into Scottsdale. With that, I ask that you support the Protect and

Preserve Task Force recommendations for the expiring tax. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you, Mr. Coluccio. Dr. Sonnie Kirtley, Maryann McAllen, Raoul Zubia.

[Time: 01:37:57]

Dr. Sonnie Kirtley: Thank you. Mayor David Ortega, Vice Mayor Whitehead, and Councilmembers, I'm Sonnie Kirtley, and I'm representing the members of COGS, the Coalition of Greater Scottsdale. Is that close enough? This image shows children in our community and this ballot measure is very important to these children. It is our job to continue the quality of life in our town. We want them to stay here as teenagers, adults, and later be contributors as volunteers to our city. So, let's keep the quality of life going. Let's get rid of the aged 50-year-old playgrounds that they are supposedly enjoying now. You recognize El Dorado Park. So please vote yes and we want to give a special thank you to the Task Force members, 15 months is a long time to volunteer. Thank you all.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you, Maryann McAllen, and Raoul Zubia. I don't know if that was a picture of you and your brother there at the lake but who knows. And then Raoul Zubia and Michael Vreeland.

[Time: 01:39:12]

Maryann McAllen: Okay, Mayor Ortega, Vice Mayor Whitehead, and members of the Council. My name is Maryann McAllen. I live at 6302 North 86th Street in Scottsdale. I have resided there for 32 years, however I'm a 59-year resident of Scottsdale. Long enough that I remember what Scottsdale looked like before Indian Bend Wash. My father as I said in the February meeting, my father and a lot of the Motorola employees used to sandbag the sides of the wash to save people's homes when it used to flood. It's a very personal thing to me. I'm a former parks and recreation employee. I worked for the city for 15 years, I grew up here, I love Scottsdale. Today I encourage you to be forward thinking like your predecessors and think of the future and hopefully my grandkids that I don't have yet, no pressure on my children, but today I encourage you to vote unanimously, unanimously to adopt Resolution 13092 to authorize the voters of Scottsdale to make this decision if they wish to prolong and elongate reduced level of tax to keep the benefit of our beautiful city going for everyone, all the people that visit, all the people that we bring here. The final four is this weekend. All of those people, those millions of people are coming for the final four, but they are coming to our beautiful city, even though it's happening in Glendale, they are going to be in Scottsdale. Because why? Because of our Preserve, our Greenbelt, our beautiful, safe city. That's the other part of it. Voting for this allows public safety to continue and to make people feel safe. I mean, it's not just a beautiful city, it's a safe city, and that is something to be proud of. I'm a proud citizen of Scottsdale. I urge you to vote yes. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Next, we have Raoul Zubia, Michael Vreeland, and Cynthia Wenstrom.

[Time: 01:41:31]

Raoul Zubia: Good evening, Mr. Mayor, Vice Mayor Whitehead, members of Council. Raoul Zubia, lifelong resident, longer than, as Maryann has pointed out many times, longer than she's been here. You

know me from the Task Force, I'm the Vice Chair of the Task Force. So, today I am not going to talk about the numbers. Everybody, Sonia, Ben, Sherry have talked about that. We have talked about that. So, I am going to appeal like most everybody else has, from your heart. Growing up here, just like Maryann, I remember before the Greenbelt. I remember when we had to sandbag, my mom volunteered to sandbag for those who were in the flood zone. I remember that well, I helped her, I was probably, 8 or 9 years old.

As a matter of fact, as I was driving here, I drove past Eldorado Park and I was remembering all the things that I used to do there, from a small child, to playing little league baseball, to now playing fetch with my dog at Eldorado. So, this is why Scottsdale is Scottsdale. Starting with the parks but then also the Preserve. So, we had, as was mentioned before, we had some leaders and citizens who were forward thinking and knew that this was going to be a tough fight, but a worthy fight. And it's become what, it's because of those two specifics, that we have become the city we are. As Maryann said a second ago, people come here even though the events take place elsewhere and that's a sense of pride for us. And I think that if you stop the funding. I think if we don't extend it or replace, whatever word you guys choose, we're going to have a tough time being the Scottsdale that we are. So, I encourage you, urge you to please pass this resolution. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Whitehead: Thank you. Let's see, Mr. Vreeland is next.

[Time: 01:43:42]

Michael Vreeland: Good evening, Mayor Ortega, Vice Mayor Whitehead, City Councilmembers. My name is Mike Vreeland, I'm a ten-year plus Scottsdale resident, I'm currently at 6017 East Wilshire in 85257. I'm also a member of the Parks and Rec Commission. Much like the other people we have heard this evening, I would like to advocate for authorizing the ballot question that we have in question to be sent to Scottsdale voters this November. As I mentioned during the February Work Study Session our parks and recreation areas are a valuable part of Scottsdale's identity and accessible to everyone. Part of what sets Scottsdale apart, as Raoul just said, are the ability to creatively address the needs of the city, the Indian Bend Wash, its inception is a way of creatively addressing the needs of the city. You have just heard about people having to sandbag their houses. This was able to provide something for our community and also be able to provide for the flood control that it has.

The interconnected parks and trail systems that we have are one of the most visible and accessible quality of life assets that identifies and unifies Scottsdale. So, by giving voters the ability to support this opportunity to revitalize our aging portions of the Greenbelt, we are also able to heighten public safety and help secure the Preserve is important because other municipalities have not stood idly by while we enjoyed the benefits the Greenbelt for the past several years. The City of Gilbert, for example, is expected to spend upwards of \$700 million on parks and recreation spaces and services. Even if that number were to get whittled down to half of that, it's still tens of millions above the projected cost that we are looking at for this tax. This is just one brief example, but Tempe and other cities are also prioritizing parks. They understand the return on the investment, and we should as well. During my time as Parks and Rec Commissioner I want to do everything that I can to advocate that Scottsdale doesn't lose its place in the Valley as having the preeminent park which is the Greenbelt. I'm sure that as

Councilmembers you also want to lend your support and signal to voters that these parks are worthy of pride and worthy of further investment, and you get to call it a tax cut. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. Next, we have Cynthia Wenstrom, Daniel Schweiker, and Daniel Schwartz.

[Time: 01:46:09]

Cynthia Wenstrom: Good evening, Mayor Ortega, can you hear okay? Vice Mayor Whitehead and Councilmembers, my name is Cynthia Wenstrom, my address is on file with the City Clerk's Office and I'm the Chair of Protect and Preserve Task Force and former Chair of McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission. Specifically, I've done my best to put myself in your shoes this evening. Would I support this proposal? Would I allow our residents to determine the outcome with their vote in November? In your shoes, I let history determine the future. The Indian Bend Wash, which you have heard talked about here, our Greenbelt is our flood control driven by the citizens and voted on in support by the citizens. The McDowell Sonoran Preserve that you have heard about this evening, definitely a grassroots citizen sort of situation to say the least and voted in support by our citizens more than once. As a Task Force, we are residents of the south, central, and north areas of our city and we reviewed, debated, and came to consensus on every motion before us and we debated and asked for more data and still came to consensus and voted on everything unanimously.

In your shoes I would ask myself, should I support? Yes. A statistically valid survey was given and produced, as well as public input and all of it supported our work. In your shoes I would ask myself should I support this tax reduction and extension for 30 years or however you would choose to call it? Yes, I want to ensure that beyond my generation which would be short sighted that my children and my grandchildren still have maintained parks and a McDowell Sonoran Preserve that's safe, that's beautiful and loved in our open spaces and beyond and improvements allowing WestWorld to operate more efficiently. In your shoes, I would support this proposal, allow it to go to ballot as presented and trust the citizens of Scottsdale, my constituents to make that call. I urge you to vote yes, this evening, support the proposal, and the ordinance the Task Force has presented to you. It's my pleasure to serve as the Chair of this Task Force and I thank you again for your attention and support this evening.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. Daniel Schweiker, Daniel Schwartz, Teresa Quale.

[Time: 01:48:25]

Daniel Schweiker: Daniel Schweiker, a central Scottsdale resident. I have typed my remarks because my eyes don't read off that iPhone very well anymore. Mayor Ortega, Vice Mayor Whitehead, honorable City Councilmembers it was a pleasure to serve on the Preserve and Protect Task Force along with eight other knowledgeable and dedicated members. We spent 15 months developing the plan in front of you. There were many discussions and debates about the right path. None of us got everything we wanted in the final plan. I know some of the things that I felt were important were included, some of them were excluded. That's how compromises work. We all approached it with the understanding that the mountain preserve, the parks, the Greenbelt and recreational areas such as WestWorld are a benefit to our current and future residents. We debated the best way to protect and enhance them. I know some

of you question how we got to the point of even needing to address some of these issues. Well, the parks has never had a dedicated steady funding source and they depended upon year-to-year General Fund financing. You know Winston Churchill in preface to his great history of World War II, prefaced it by saying he would never criticize any decision that he was not involved in making because he now had the benefit of hindsight while those making the decisions only had the information at hand. I believe that's a wise policy to follow.

So maybe some of the city departments did not ask for enough funding during the years to prevent having fallen so far behind in maintenance, however in my four terms in the Paradise Valley Town Council, I know that yearly budget requests are not drawn up in a vacuum by the departments. They are determined through the budgeting process with input from Council and managers. If for instance, the Parks and Recreational Department has fallen behind on maintaining, it is not because they didn't want to look after them, it's because they knew each year, they were expected to be allocated a certain amount of money and we all know there's never enough money to go around. All of the city's needs compete against one another for very scarce dollars. Every Council for the last 50 years has probably contributed to the point of getting to where we are now but for a minute, forget how we got here. Our task as directed by the Council was to develop a path forward that would resolve the problems and assure there would be a steady stream.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you.

Daniel Schweiker: That's what we are trying to do, so thank you for letting us assist you.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you, Daniel for your service. Daniel Schwartz, Teresa Quale, and Heather Mrowiec.

[Time: 01:51:18]

Daniel Schwartz: Mayor Ortega, Vice Mayor Whitehead, and Councilmembers, I'm Dan Schwartz. I have lived at 6705 East Montecito Ave in south Scottsdale for 20 years, have raised two kids there and plan on continuing living there for the next 20 or more. My wife and I raised kids here. They are frequent adventurers in south Scottsdale parks. They both learned how to ride a bicycle in Chaparral Park. You know, and adventures in Scottsdale parks were an inseparable part of their growing up. As cyclists and hikers, my wife and I both enjoy the Scottsdale parks and the Scottsdale Preserves, and we see urgently the need to do things like refresh the 50-year-old south Scottsdale parks to be able to the urgency of hunting down invasive species like the prevalent stinkweed and eliminate it and the need to fund long-term plans to make Scottsdale plan even safer and more inviting. As well as appreciating south Scottsdale's unique mix of open spaces and urban life I have come to appreciate just how well the staff, the Commissions, and the Council work together to enhance what makes Scottsdale special.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge the excellent work done by the Preserve and Protect Task Force and the culminating in the resolution I am here to endorse today. As a political activist, I strongly believe that we should let the voters speak directly to their priorities. To this end, I strongly endorse adopting Resolution 13092, placing on the ballot. No one's decision to live or play in Scottsdale is going to be based on 0.2 of a percent of sales tax it will however be made on influenced by rundown facilities,

wildfires, other threats to safety, and desert spaces suffering from unmitigated human impact. The voters must be allowed to speak on this. They should not have their voice blunted by the Council or the State Legislature. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. Next, we have Teresa Quale, Heather Mrowiec, and Craig A. Citizen.

[Time: 00:53:41]

Teresa Quale: Mayor Ortega, Vice Mayor Whitehead, and Councilmembers, my name is Teresa Quale. I live on 7730 East Astor. I have been there are 42 years amazingly at Cactus and Hayden in central Scottsdale. I did however grow up here so, I have been here 68 years. I obviously support giving the voters the choice but the thing that I really wanted to speak to is the ordinance. I've had the privilege of serving on the Bond Task Force, I was on the Library Board and I'm currently Vice Chair of Parks and Recreation Commission. And the thing that I think is so important here is that the Council does an excellent job of appointing people to these Commissions who are going to provide the oversight of this tax and how it's spent. They are dedicated, experienced, they do their homework. They are supported by the amazing staff that you have here in Scottsdale. And I think it gives me a lot of confidence, when I think about, okay whose hands is this going to be in? Who is going to be giving the input to the Council of what should be done? And it's people I worked side by side that you all picked. And quite frankly that gives me a lot of confidence and I think it will give our voters when they get the opportunity to vote on this, a lot of confidence to know that they have people behind it that are residents, that love Scottsdale, and know that it's going to be the right thing for our city. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. Heather Mrowiec and Craig A. Citizen, then Mark Winkelman.

[Time: 00:55:19]

Heather Mrowiec: Hello, Mayor Ortega, Vice Mayor Whitehead, and honored Councilmembers. My name is Heather Mrowiec and I live at 1729 North 75th Street, a block from Vista del Camino Park, one of the south Scottsdale parks. When I moved to Scottsdale 30 years ago, I can't believe it has been that long, about a year later, I discovered the Greenbelt, became entranced by it, moved into an apartment along it, and then purchased my house 25 years ago. I use the park constantly. Maybe a million times I have been out there and during that time I've had the chance to also watch it deteriorate. It's a beautiful place, but there's asphalt that is honestly 50 years old. I can't get my bike into the park by the fire station anymore. There are bridges that are out. And I just wanted to impress upon you that as south Scottsdale has been underfunded and the parks have been underfunded, we no longer have time to consider other options than this option here. Maybe we should have had a bond fund five, ten years ago to bring the park up to standards, but now this is what we need because it's going to need serious repairs. And if you don't believe me, I offer you the option to go out to the park, find a restroom, and then visit the restroom and you will see just how bad it's gotten and how desperately we need the help in the parks. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. Craig Citizen, Mark Winkelman, and Jim Haxby.

[Time: 01:57:11]

Craig Citizen: Thank you, Mayor Ortega. Thank you, Vice Mayor Whitehead. I'm using an app here to read this off of. It's my first time so, give me one second. It is always a pleasure to speak for my community in an open and democratic forum. I've been a Scottsdale resident, south Scottsdale resident for over 11 years and along with many of you, I am proud to call Scottsdale my home. People love Scottsdale because they love our parks, and they feel safe here. Our parks are a major part of our identity, and our protected deserts are literally the face of Scottsdale, and we should all be doing everything we can do to support and maintain them.

Our first responders are physically entrusted to keep us safe, and I trust them to do so. I trust their leadership and I trust that with additional funding they will provide continued safety to the residents that live here and also to the million plus tourists that come to this vibrant city and keep our heart beating here. Being a former nightclub employee, I am very familiar with Scottsdale's highly skilled and dedicated first responders and I'm for any financial support to them because we all know you don't get a second chance when it comes to safety. I want to see further investment into the infrastructure that we have been improving for decades in our city. But more than that, I'm asking you, Councilmembers, I'm asking that you trust the voters of Scottsdale, the same voters that elected you all to your positions, I'm asking that you trust us and our values that we wish to endorse this moving forward and I say thank you. And Craig Citizen is my real name to those who were laughing.

Mayor Ortega: You get the prize for shortest comments. Thank you very much. Mark Winkelman and Jim Haxby. Shortest and very direct, thank you. Mark Winkelman and the final one I show is Jim Haxby. Oh, the next page. I am correct.

[Time: 01:59:01]

Mark Winkelman: Are we good?

Mayor Ortega: Proceed.

Mark Winkelman: Mayor, Vice Mayor, Councilmembers, I'm Mark Winkelman. I live at 7117 East Rancho Vista Drive in downtown Scottsdale. I have been a resident for over 13 years. I was very proud to be on the Task Force. We stood here I guess it was 15 months ago and volunteering for that. At the time I did it I had no idea of the commitment of our time and the resources of the city that were going to be used as part of that. So, people have already spoken from their hearts about the importance of the passion for this. I could do the same, but I am going to focus on where we are at tonight. You guys are about after this 15-month process, to deliberate on the recommendation. And we have gotten here because of the work of first of all the staff. I want to congratulate, Sonia, Gina, Kroy, Nick, I mean I won't list everybody. It's been unbelievable the work that they have done. We asked a million questions. We challenged them with this, that and the other, and they never complained, they went out, they looked it up, and came back with answers. And it was talked about before, this was not an easy task. We debated it.

We're talking about a tax. Nobody wants to talk about tax. That's a tough thing for anybody to do. And

we looked at options. Could we rely on the General Fund? Could we bond? There were just problems and challenges with everything. I think you took this group of Task Force members would come from diverse backgrounds, all throughout the city and I don't think I have ever been part of a group that's ever come together, rolled up the sleeves, put politics and everything else aside and said, "Let's solve this problem." And it was amazing how we worked well together, and we came with a unanimous consent at the end of this. So, there's been a lot of information. You all have had access to Sonia and her staff. There's been I don't know how many meetings. We are not the ones doing all the work. You guys have had that opportunity too. We had two Work Study Sessions. It's been a lot of work. It's been a lot of effort. I think we have come up with a terrific result and hopefully you guys are here ready to take that to the next level and let the voters decide. I urge you to support our recommendation. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. Then we have Jim Haxby.

[Time: 02:01:46]

Jim Haxby: Gee, you get to hear from somebody that is not on the Commission. I listened to their presentation. And I think as a resident, it's very confusing when we use preserve and protect or protect and preserve saying we are going to do this tax, when in reality, only 18% or 25% at most is going to the Preserve, the rest of it is to the parks. I don't think any resident from Scottsdale's not proud of their parks or wants their parks maintained. But let's be honest. Let's don't try to put some sham language in here. Let's call it what it is. If we are going to raise funds for our park. If we adopt the next resolution, the General Fund is going to go up \$250 million. Can't we maintain that? I mean when you buy your house, maintaining your yard is part of the thing, part of the city deal. I just think that what we've, in this thing, is to look at what's going on here it's like it's trying to confuse or baffle, or you get the impression that it's a sham and the average resident is going to distrust the city more from this thing. So, I think you ought to call it what it is and if you are going to fund the parks, we operated without a bond for our funds for 30 years previous or 50 years. But it should go in the General Fund and the city ought to be responsible for its assets. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. Well, at this point, that concludes all people wishing to speak. Therefore, I will close public comment. I do want to point out that we also received written emails and those are also a part of the record that is part of the record today. All of the minutes of the Task Force are also of record and just to add before I defer that there will be frequently asked questions and responses as to follow up all the presentations made today. At this point, I see Councilwoman Janik and then Vice Mayor Whitehead wishes to speak.

[Time: 02:04:43]

Councilwoman Janik: Thank you, Mayor. First of all, I want to thank the Protect and Preserve Task Force. I know how many hours you spent, and I know you had a lot of late evenings and I certainly appreciate your objectivity as you evaluated everything. Next, I want to thank our Treasurer Sonia Andrews for her guidance, and her attendance at all the meetings, and all the expert advice and for being the staff lead. Thank you very, very much. And this is all in addition to their regular work. Next, I want to thank Sherry Scott, our legal advisor, and she attended many, many meetings to provide appropriate legal advice to

the Committee. And Ben Lane, because until you have to evaluate one of these ballot measures, you don't know how important it is that every word is accurate and correct and less than 50. So, thank you. He's got quite a bit of expertise in this and really appreciate that. A couple of other comments. First of all, I know some people think that we should have bonded for this, and we have seen that about 45% of this budget is for services and you cannot bond for services. So, I think people need to keep that in mind when they try to criticize that we should have bonded.

The next thing is when this Task Force was first formed, Scottsdale Arts made a request to be included in the sales tax proceeds. However, after several meetings a decision was made that they would not be included, and it was a difficult decision, but I believe it was based on the fact that it was really not a good fit for Protect and Preserve and the scope of the measure would have increased dramatically had Arts been added to it. The other thing that I think is of critical importance is that I trust the collective wisdom of the citizens to vote on issues that are this weighty. They prove themselves from Prop 420 and once again we welcomed their questions. We will answer their questions. And we think it's time for them to vote on it. So, with that in mind, this is a two-part motion. I move to adopt Resolution Number 13092 Option B with the addition of the word "sole" and "solely" in the ballot language as shown in the presentation to further restrict the use of the 0.15% tax to its authorized purpose and referring the proposed ballot measure to the voters in the upcoming November 2024 General Election. And to adopt Ordinance Number 4633 to further restrict the use of the 0.15% tax establish proper oversight of the tax, set an effective date, and add in Section 5, "this ordinance cannot be modified except by affirmative vote of at least five members of the City Council."

Vice Mayor Whitehead: Second. May I speak to my second?

Mayor Ortega: Yes, please speak, Vice Mayor Whitehead.

[Time: 02:07:52]

Vice Mayor Whitehead: So, thank you, Councilwoman Janik for thanking partially the people that need to be thanked. This has been a 15-month process. I've had two journalists tell me in the last few months that Scottsdale is simply a standout city for our process, our honesty, our transparency, and our commitment to citizens. I thought that was pretty good coming from two very different journalists, so thank you to them for noticing. We deal with a lot of difficult issues here at the City. We are front line government; this is not one of them. We are not here to discuss how each one of us as individuals as voters are going to vote. We are not here to discuss whether \$3.71 per month, per house is worth keeping our kids in south Scottsdale safe or whether it's worth preventing forest fires in our Preserve. All we are here to do is to vote on whether or not we think the citizens of this city should be allowed to vote. And it's a simple answer.

A yes vote means that we support our residents we believe in the residents, as noted that elected us to give them a voice, and a no vote means we don't. So, there will be plenty of discussions after tonight on the validity or the benefits or the disadvantages of this. I really don't see any disadvantages, but tonight we are just here to decide whether our voters deserve a vote, whether the voters in south Scottsdale

deserve a chance to get funding for their parks when they twice voted for funding for the Preserve. But I want to tell you something. This is not about north and south Scottsdale because Scottsdale residents think as one. And we have heard a lot about the south and believe me there's a lot of defunding of our southern parks, but I do want to read one, and we received, I don't know, about 100 emails. I haven't seen a single email where someone said \$3.71 is not worth making our kids safer.

But I do want to read one email if I may from resident in Legend Trail which, as most of you know, is in our far north. He wrote, "Recently the residents of Legend Trail were introduced to a new ballot item funding the police, fire and our parks. There were close to 100 Legend Trail residents at this meeting. And no one thought the small increase to implement this ballot item was an issue. Legend Trail is a certified fire wise community and protecting the Preserve and neighboring homes from fire is a community priority. I'm very confident I speak for many in Legend Trail that want the Protect and Preserve measure on the November ballot so voters can decide on the funding for police, fire, and the parks. So with that, I enthusiastically second the motion and I do want to address the last speaker's comments. People will be reading the ballot book and we're very clear on what is being funded in the ballot book and they will also be reading the ballot. So, thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Okay. Councilmember Durham, Councilmember Graham, and, again, any emails actually are already entered into the record and although you accented one, it's already a part of the record. We'll go to Councilmember Durham, Councilmember Graham.

[Time: 02:11:30]

Councilmember Durham: Thank you, Mayor. I think former Mayor Manross summed this up when she said this is all about vision. And I think I want to thank the Commission again because I don't think you can thank them enough for the vision that they have come up with and they have been assisted by our Treasurer, attorneys, Ben, and I'm sure there are other people in the city too that shared this vision with the Task Force. And I think they've come up with a remarkable piece of work and so I'm enthusiastically support this proposal. We have two great jewels in the city of Scottsdale, one is the Preserve, and one is the Greenbelt and like any asset, we have to maintain and keep those assets. They were brilliant additions by prior generations and now it's our turn to step up and make sure that those are Preserved and maintained. We can do so at a very modest cost. I'm sure there's going to be arguments about how much this tax is, and who bears the burden of it and so on, and I was a tax lawyer for 35 years and I can tell you no one ever knows who bears the burden of a tax. It's impossible to figure out. But what we do know and it's indisputable here is that the tax is going to go down. No matter how you slice it you can't make an argument that the tax is going up. It's going down. And that keeps our taxes among the lowest in the Valley and our neighbors and visitors are going to share that burden which is appropriate.

A few weeks ago, I spent a morning at the Gateway with Mr. Coluccio, trying to collect signatures for City Council and I'm sure all of us have done that, and what you will find out is that a lot of those people are from Phoenix. They would give their right arm to have what we have, and we have it. And we have it thanks to the vision of those who came before us. And so, we have to keep it and maintain it. And as Councilmember Whitehead said, it's critical to remember that our actions merely place this on the ballot. With respect to Mr. Haxby's comments, we have been extraordinarily clear about where this

money is going to go and there is going to be more time to discuss that between now and November. So there really can't be any doubt about where this money is going to go. I don't know how we can be more transparent about that. But the citizens in the end will vote, and I strongly favor Councilwoman Janik's motion to include Section 5 in the ordinance, because the citizens are voting on this. I think they need some certainty on where the money is going to go but at the same time 30 years is a long time. And if the priorities change, I think the Council should have some way of reestablishing those priorities but I just want it to be a little bit harder.

Two things I want to say about the criticisms of this. There have been various comments that we got a huge bucket of money sitting around, it's a big surplus, and so why do we need to do this. Well, there's no surplus. I think Treasurer Andrews has made it clear that there is not a surplus. Now some years down the road, there might be a surplus and we might have extra money, but that depends on tax collections and interest rates, and so on. And if there is a surplus, it can go to possibly projects in the Preserve, or as the Task Force has said, we can have a vote to end the tax. So, it's a myth that there's a surplus. There isn't one. And we can't bond these issues because as Councilwoman Janik said, you can't bond maintenance costs and a lot of this is maintenance particularly for the southern parks and so we can't bond maintenance. We can't bond maintenance in the Preserve. And if we threw that open to the General Fund, there would be other demands coming after it. And that's one of the reasons that we've had deferred maintenance is because there's always something else that gets priority over the parks, and that's why we need to put the parks first, and that's why I enthusiastically support this motion.

Mayor Ortega: We have Councilmember Graham, Councilwoman Littlefield.

[Time: 02:17:09]

Councilmember Graham: Thank you, Mayor. This has been a long road and a long process. And most of the projects in this program, I find are worthy and are very important. And I also agree with those that point out about the neglect to some of the south Scottsdale parks. I also think that WestWorld is as this program incorporates WestWorld, I think that's a tremendous asset for uplifting our western heritage and I think it needs improvement as well. And I want to also echo some of my colleagues about the appreciation for the Task Force members, their service to community and all the time they put in. After studying this whole program, and reading resident feedback, where I stand right now is I don't think this tax program is ready yet. And first, many residents have raised questions about the program, can the dollars be diverted? Can future Councils ignore voters' wishes in 2024, because of the way the ordinance is written? Some people have asked, well, how do we measure when you spend it and you are going through the program, how do you measure success of the program? These questions I think should be openly discussed, transparently in front of everyone. And in fact, three of us up here tried to schedule a work study to have an open discussion and to hash some of these projects out but that request was denied and it left people with the impression that one of those, we have to pass it to find out more about it.

I don't think denying an open discussion is the best practice for what is going to amount to a \$1.2 billion tax program that will last until my toddlers are in their 30s. I think residents want and deserve great parks. We want great assets. We want great recreational facilities, and we should prioritize those, and

we should fight for those. But residents also want, and they deserve a local government that openly discusses this and that also can demonstrate that it's controlling its spending. So, this tax program in its current form rests on the hope that future Councilmembers, after we're all gone, and future staff members will do the right thing. We will see sales taxes dribble in over the years and we will hope by the time there's enough cash to do this or do that, that something more urgent might come up, somewhere else and this program, and as we sit here today, will be ancient history because they will be looking at that then and say this is what our time needs and this is what we need. The general allocation percentages in this program are open ended language. They don't provide the security of a bond program that people like, and people crave. When you have a bond program, it's pretty nice because you can say this project, this much. No such thing for this program. Bond programs also have the benefit that future Councils can't alter the voters' wishes. And they measure success about those projects because you can look at project completion and you can also look at budget to actual. And finally, the tax program raises questions about budget priorities as a whole.

Residents deserve to know what went wrong, that we must raise their taxes. Residents are asking what is going on with City Council, with local government that receipts are higher than ever, and we have to raise our taxes to maintain the city's oldest assets. And we haven't accomplished that yet as far as making that pitch to voters in my opinion. I have heard some supporters say this is only a few bucks a week or a few bucks a month or the cost of a sandwich, but not only has that argument been used every single time, it's not about how much money it is, it's about safeguarding our spending. This program would raise taxes that one other thing about this program, is that it raises taxes to maintain, but not add or improve so much, but more maintenance, as Councilmember Durham and Janik mentioned, the current assets that we have. If we are going to increase the tax, you would kind of expect more assets and more investment than what we are getting, but this is the theme, the recurring theme is maintenance. So, you would expect the assets you have, especially the oldest assets to come from existing budget capacity. So those are some of the issues that I'm wrestling with, and I was really hoping we could have discussed if we were able to have a Work Study Session. There is still time to do it. There's no reason to rush it, to artificially rush it. I spoke to the City Clerk, and he said we could hash these questions out, work them out and find answers, come together, and pull together, and he said there's still we could defer this at least a month and the election is not until November. We have time to put this on the ballot. And so, those are my remarks, and I will make and with that I will make an Alternate Motion to continue this until early May, if I may. I will put that motion and put that on the floor. Thank you, Mayor.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Second.

Mayor Ortega: I heard a motion to Continue Item 14 to May. I do not support that, and I don't know if we need more discussion. Do you want to speak to your second or do you want to take a vote on the continuance? Let's let you speak to your motion if you wish, the motion to continue. That's what you can speak to right now, not the other one.

[Time: 02:23:53]

Councilwoman Littlefield: Thank you. I see no problem with accepting that and having more discussion

about this. This is a very large idea. It's very expensive. It's a lot of money. And I think that defining and making sure we have a unified path going forward with all the money and the time and the effort that this is going to take, would be a good idea. I don't see any downside to that. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Okay the motion is to continue. I will call for a vote on the motion to continue or not to continue, which would proceed with the matter at hand. Please record your vote. A no is to not continue. A yes is to continue. Okay the motion fails, and we will proceed with the discussion as Council has spoken. The Council person who has not spoken yet, excuse me, sorry, we can proceed with the discussion and Councilwoman Littlefield can speak to her thoughts and then Councilwoman Caputi would complete the round. I'm the last one to speak on it. Go ahead Councilwoman Littlefield.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Thank you, Mayor. And I would like to first of all thank the Task Force for all of their time and effort, and all of their considerations, which were numerous. I would also like to thank our Treasurer for the work that she's done on this. It's been a hard job for her, and as a new Treasurer, she had to poke into a lot of things that I'm sure were under covers and hard to find and needed help and I really thank the work that she did. I thank her for that work. I am torn with this. And I will tell you why. As I have spent literally days at my desk in deliberation of this meeting tonight. After much thought and review and consideration, I cannot support the motion tonight to put the sales tax increase on the ballot, to pay for these long-term hard asset projects. I do not have an issue with the projects, nor do I believe that they should not be done. I believe they should be done. You are right.

However, these costs should be paid for by bonds. They are long-term debt, which is the definition of what a bond is for. That's not a sales tax. Creating long-term assets requires long-term tax, sales tax. This is important because the funding sources are very, very different. 30-year bonds are a funding source for long-term infrastructure purchases, replacements, and major improvements that will last for 30 years or more. Hopefully these improvements will do that and last for 30 years or more and that's what these projects are telling us that they will do. It's what the city bonds are designed to do. They have a stated interest rate; a beginning date and they have an ending date. They will stop eventually, after 30 years, when the projects are done.

[Time: 02:27:42]

Sales taxes do not have an ending date. That is important. Bonds are also restricted, and they can only be used for the designated projects for which they were sold. Again, sales taxes are not restricted in general, or they can be changed. Consider bonds mature and end at stated dates. Sales taxes can be continued by a vote long after the specified project has been paid for. It's much easier to continue current sales taxes than to ask for a new bond. That has to go back to the people. Permanent structural improvements and installations of new long-term infrastructure should be paid for with bonds, especially if their life expectancy would be longer than the life of the bond, which is usually 30 years. It's okay for our debt levels to drop when these bonds are paid off. Examples of this would include new drainage improvements in WestWorld and the park replacements in the southern and central parts of the city which would have 50 year life expectancies. Also, it's possible that the land bridge in the Preserve would have a longer life expectancy if that is approved as well as several other projects. They

don't have to end in 30 years. We are not going to blow them up at that time. Also, the maintenance costs for the parks and the Preserve should come out of the city's operating budget, not paid for with bonds.

Bonds are long-term capital needs not operating expenses. If we need to increase departmental budgets to cover these increases in maintenance costs, which is what I'm hearing, we can do so by using some of our sales taxes if necessary. But the hard asset construction which lasts for years, 30 to 50 years and depreciates over those years needs to be paid for with bonds. That is what bonds are for. Once the bonds are sold and the money raised, it cannot be spent on any other purchase on any other item and the city can budget for and pay back the bonds on a known and regular basis. Sales taxes can be used for other things. Therefore, I will not be supporting the agenda which asks us to approve payment for a defined long term bond projects with sales taxes. I do not believe that is a good option. There's no ending date for the sales taxes as there would be for bonds. And I like these projects. Don't get me wrong. I think they are good projects, and I would support them if they were going to be bonded. 25% of the tax will go to WestWorld that's a stated item. It will go to improving the drainage and the paving and the parking lots, as well as adding covers for the arenas. I don't think there's anyone more supportive of WestWorld than I am. I believe it adds a very unique venue to our city and to display not only our western heritage, but also offers the ability to host many other types of shows and displays for all to enjoy. I don't have an issue with improving the drainage there or with paving the parking lots. I think both would, beneficial for all the larger events that WestWorld hosts.

Bond projects should have a life expectancy, at least as long as the repayment of the tax used to pay for them. 30 years in this case. These projects fit that bill. Finally, a great deal of this money should go to WestWorld. 25% at least is what is estimated. WestWorld should at least be mentioned in the ballot language that citizens are going to be looking at to do a vote and have a comprehensive description of how that money would be spent. WestWorld is not even mentioned in the ballot language. That's wrong people and it's deceptive. Also on a final note, bonds have a beginning date and an ending date. We know when they start. We know when they are paid off. Usually designed to match fairly closely the expected life expectancy of the long-term assets they are used to purchase or build. Not so with the sales tax. It just continues on, long after the assets are paid for and depreciated and then there needs to be replaced once more by additional cash. It's not an appropriate use of a sales tax. It should be bonded. If it's bonded, I would vote to take it to the citizens for a vote. I will not vote to do this with a sales tax. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Okay. Thank you. We will continue with the discussion of the main motion. We have Councilwoman Caputi and then myself. We will have the full round of discussion. So, go ahead, Councilwoman Caputi.

[Time: 02:25:13]

Councilwoman Caputi: Thank you, Mayor. I am actually going to be pretty quick. I just have a couple of comments to make. I completely agree with Vice Mayor Whitehead. I think that we are making this way too complicated tonight. What we are being asked to do tonight is to move this forward to allow our

residents to tell us what they want to do. I don't think there's anybody on this dais, who doesn't believe in deferring to the will of our voters, who doesn't believe in the democratic process. I think we are being asked if we would like to let the voters decide and I wholeheartedly would agree with that. This is again a complex decision, and we are agreeing tonight to let allow it to go forward to let our residents tell us what they want to do with their dollars. The original tax for the Preserve was put out to our residents and I think since we are considering another major ask, of course, it's not up to the vote here on our Council. It's up to the vote of our residents. So, I'm not sure why we're belaboring the issue because again, it's pretty simple. We are being asked to put it forward for a vote. I do support the Option B, for sure. I think that was a good idea. The language to replace and reduce makes way more sense. Again, the original tax was used to acquire the Preserve land. That purpose is gone. We are certainly replacing the different and lesser options. So that's really all I have to say tonight. I completely support the motion to allow our residents to vote on this resolution. Thank you.

[Time: 02:34:57]

Mayor Ortega: Okay. Now, I will speak to the motion. You know, Scottsdale is a very ambitious city. When you look at a flooding problem which was the dirt floodway area which became a hallmark for the city, the Greenbelt. That was turning imaginatively an eye sore, an eye sore into an asset. There was also a bond passed by the Scottsdale citizens to improve the Greenbelt. So that was also a step forward for the city. We have all praised the group and the Task Force and I will add to that praise. They were chosen specifically from every corner of this city. In a balanced manner they came forward and everything is of record. What we are voting on tonight is to put it forward as a ballot measure. And I will clarify that it is a hybrid funding. There are bonds for the WestWorld projects. Those are projects that, this is a hybrid measure that has sales tax paying for firemen, police, and things that will not well, the fire truck that's specified will not last 30 years. It's not bondable for that purpose. The rangers and park rangers would be great to know that someone has some responsibility and that is an expense that can be met. We want to say month to month, quarterly to quarterly. It's not a bondable measure. I really do this see as a comprehensive forward-looking responsibility. It is our duty, and it is our duty to protect our investments.

Scottsdale has a legacy of open spaces. And our parks and so forth are our face forward and they also underpin our home values and our commercial property values. We take a lot of pride in these investments and it's also then our duty to take care of our investments. As we look at the process, the pie chart shows exactly where these funds are going, including bondable items that are paid off in 20 years and that is an interesting solution offered by the Task Force. The other thing that they have done is they've prioritized basically based on the age and needs of the older areas first. Why does that make sense? It makes sense because in other cities when equipment gets worn out or a ramada is no longer safe, they pretty much remove it, and all you have left is a slab. That's not acceptable to Scottsdale standards. And we have, they have clarified every deficiency as best possible. There are steps and there are walls that are dangerous for a 2-year-old toddler to walk today that need to be fixed. There are areas that will be coned off because there are cracks in the sidewalk and may require immediate attention.

So, this is a prudent pay-as-you-go method with plenty of oversight that we all expect in Scottsdale. We get these requests by emails constantly when there is a danger, and also this measure covers our worn and torn multipurpose areas as well. Those are public areas that we want to maintain for enjoyment. I'm completely supportive of this. And I would say that every measure has a purpose. I see what we deal with up here as; is there a purpose? I don't see it as, "Oh, it's a tax." Because individuals will recognize the needs that we enjoy on Sundays and weekends or walking our dog at 8:00 in the morning in our parks and will want to support that. So, with that, I will conclude, and I hope we can call the question.

[Time: 02:39:54]

Vice Mayor Whitehead: I would like to call the question, Mayor.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. The question has been called. All in favor of calling the question, say aye. Any opposed? So, we will take a vote on the motion.

Councilmember Graham: Point of order.

Mayor Ortega: We have called the question.

Councilmember Graham: But I can always call point of order.

Mayor Ortega: You can say that, go ahead. You can say that, but the discussion is ended by calling the question.

Councilmember Graham: Thank you, Mayor. Here's my point of order to Parliamentarian. If I wanted to make an amending motion, could I make that amending motion after we call the question? An amending motion is when you take the motion on the floor and you propose a modification to the motion, either adding or omitting words.

Mayor Ortega: In my opinion and I preside we have had the opportunity to have an alternate motion. We are calling, we are ending discussion on the agenda topic at this point.

Councilmember Graham: Very good. Very good. Can we hear from the Parliamentarian? Thank you, Sherry.

Sherry Scott: Mayor and Councilmember Graham, yes, I do believe once the question has been called, then the next thing that happens is you vote on the motion. So had you spoke up before the question was called, perhaps could you have made that alternative motion, but I believe you need to wait now until this motion is voted upon.

Councilmember Graham: Thank you, Mayor, for allowing the Parliamentarian to give her interpretation.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. Please record your vote on the motion. The motion carries 5-2. We will go on

to Item Number 15.

REGULAR AGENDA – ITEM 15

[Time: 02:41:48]

Mayor Ortega: And would the Council like a five-minute break? No, let's keep going. We're going to keep going. Item Number 15 is a proposed ballot measure to increase permanent base adjustment. We have a presenter Sonia Andrews Treasurer and Ben Lane City Clerk. I will also point out that there are four requests for speak. There are four requests to speak. And we will have the complete presentation. And then go directly to the public comment and then get into our deliberation after public comment. Thank you. We will proceed madam Treasurer.

Sonia Andrews: Thank you, Mayor, Council. Next slide. So, I wanted to start with providing a little bit of background on the state expenditure limitation. In 1979, 1980, the state constitution was amended to impose an expenditure limitation with a very simple formula that uses our 1979, 1980 expenditure as a base, applying population and inflation adjustments to arrive at an expenditure limitation for which we cannot exceed. The constitution was also amended to provide for a process for local governments to adjust this expenditure limitation with voter approval for any increases such as new programs, new services, or cost increases above just the population and inflation adjustments. So, with this constitution amendment, the city's operating budget annually cannot exceed the state-imposed expenditure limitation. We have, since the last adjustment that we made in 2006, we've had new programs and services and cost increases above the annual adjustment that the state allows. And that's why we are before you tonight asking you to consider a ballot, following the state prescribed process to adjust our expenditure limitation formula. Next slide.

On December 5th of 2023, we had a Council Work Study to present year-end financial results. And during that work study, we notified Council that the city's operating expenditures are currently at 94% of our expenditure limitation. At that time, Council directed staff, directed me, to bring forward a policy to ensure that we regularly review our expenditure limitation. The City's last expenditure limitation adjustment was 18 years ago in 2006. On January 23rd, Council adopted such a policy requiring the City Treasurer to report on the expenditure limitation every five years and also to provide a recommendation and action when our budget is reaching or exceeding 90% of that limitation. On March 5th, we held a Work Study following the guidance of the new policy to discuss the state expenditure limitation formula and the process prescribed by the state or required by the state to adjust our expenditure limitation. At that Work Study, Council directed me to follow the state prescribed process and bring forward a recommendation to adjust the expenditure limitation. So tonight, that is what we are following, is as directed by Council, I am recommending a ballot proposal be referred to the voters to adjust the expenditure limitation. Next slide.

[Time: 02:46:02]

So, this is the state formula for the expenditure limitation. We have a preliminary amount calculated by the state for fiscal year 24/25 and these numbers come directly from the state. The 1979/1980 base

currently is \$55,861,000. The population and inflation factors applied by the state allows us to have a \$613,963,000 expenditure limitation. What we are recommending, or what I am recommending, is increasing the base by \$22 million as calculated by the state mandated process to arrive at an expenditure limitation of \$884,463,000. And this calculation was explained in detail in our March 5th Work Study. The calculation is based on the state mandated formula that uses our existing revenues projected with historical actual revenue growth to show that we can support expenditures at the new expenditure limitation level. Next slide.

So based on that state required and mandated process and calculation, our calculated recommendation for the permanent base adjustment is \$22 million. And that's what this ballot measure is asking voters to approve. Next slide. Some very important facts to keep in mind is that the permanent base adjustment that voters will approve is not a tax increase. A permanent base adjustment simply adjusts the formula that the state uses to establish that expenditure limitation. It does not authorize the city to increase taxes or impose new taxes. It is not a tax increase. The other important fact about the permanent base adjustment is that it does not allow the city to exceed our legally adopted budget. Council must still approve a balanced budget in accordance with state law. It does not allow us to go over the legally adopted budget that we have or spent more money than we receive. It does not allow for that. Next slide.

So why do we need to adjust our expenditure limitation? Well, as I said, it's been 18 years since the last adjustment in 2006. Next slide. Scottsdale has one the lowest limitations among cities in the Valley. We are highlighted in the red. This is the current year, the fiscal year 23/24 expenditure limitation for the city is \$583.3 million or 2,393 per capita. And as you can see our peer cities, some of these peer cities listed on here are significantly smaller than Scottsdale and have significantly lower expenditures than Scottsdale. And they have a higher expenditure limitation than we do. Next slide. And again, here's the state formula. Again, it does not automatically adjust the expenditure limitation for any new programs or services or any cost increases that is above and beyond population and inflation. The simple formula mandated by the state simply is the expenditure base and population and inflation. There's no factor for new programs, services, or other cost increases. Next slide.

And this chart shows the expenditure limitation increase we have received from the state with just the state population and inflation factors. As you can see starting in 2017, with population and inflation adjustment, we received a 4% increase to our state expenditure limitation. And because we've had some negative population adjustments, our increase in the expenditure limitation has been decreasing. So, 3%, 2%, and 1% in 2023. And as we all know, in 2022, we had double digit inflation. CPI was at 13%, and the producer price index was at 20 something percent. In 2024, we did receive an 8% increase in our expenditure limitation to cover some of these inflation increases, but 8% is not exactly 20 something percent or double digit to cover the cost increases that we are actually experiencing. Next slide.

[Time: 02:51:21]

And this slide I shared on the March 5th Work Study, is the cost of police officer and all the equipment that is needed for our police officer back in 2008, when we had our last permanent base adjustment and

expenditure increase, and what it is today. And as you can see back in '08, we didn't have on body cameras. Our ballistic vests were significantly less. Salaries, benefits, uniform, gear, all of that was significantly less and today the cost of an officer is 76% higher than back in '08. Likewise, and I won't go over these, next slide please, likewise, we also shared the costs of fire, single unit response with one ladder truck and four firefighters. That cost has increased by 73% from 2008. Next slide. Our water costs, as we all know, the cost of our Central Arizona Project water and the CAP water treatment expansion that we've had to do in 2011 has increased our CAP water purchase and treatment by 310%. Next slide. Aside from these cost increases, we've also had new operating costs that the population and inflation factors did not take into account. In 2010 our voters increased our hotel/motel tax from 3% to 5%. So, we have increased tourism expenditures since the 2006 permanent base adjustment. And our expenditure increases for tourism is over 200%. In 2015, the voters also approved our two new fire stations via the Bond 2015 program. Those new fire stations have just been completed in 2021 and the operating costs are now coming online. Operating cost of fire stations is not just janitorial costs and electricity costs. We have to staff these fire stations. So, we're hiring staffing to staff the fire stations. The Bond 2019 program, we have more new fire stations, fire and police training facility, park facilities all to be completed over the next few years. Those will also bring new operating costs that the population and inflation factors do not take into account. We also have new ambulance services and other expanded services to consider. Next slide.

So, the consequences if the permanent base adjustment is not made is that, again, the city is currently at 94% of our expenditure limitation. We will need to prioritize our operating budget regardless of the revenues we collect and regardless of citizens' needs and interests. It doesn't matter how much revenue we collect or what citizens want; we have to stay within the expenditure limitation. Any unexpected expenditures that cannot be avoided will also require reducing existing expenditures so we can again fit within this state-imposed expenditure limitation. It impacts a citywide operation. It applies not only to the General Fund but to the Water Fund, the Solid Waste Fund, Airport Fund, and all of our city operations. Next slide. So, a question has come up as to why there was some excess capacity during fiscal year '20 and '21. Well, the pandemic impacted our expenditures and expenditure limitation capacity. Next slide. So, as you can see, this chart shows you our actual expenditures as a percent of our expenditure limitation. We file this with the Auditor General through the annual expenditure limitation report that's audited. As you can see, it appears that in fiscal year '20 and '21, we had enough capacity to not request any increase. Our percent of capacity used of the expenditure limitations was down to 82% and 81% and then all of a sudden it went up to 92% and 94%, and this year we're estimating we will be at around 96%. So, what happened then? It was because of the pandemic. Next slide.

But before I go into the details of the pandemic, I wanted to also mention that it does not the actual expenditures that we have to pay attention to, yes, we have to pay attention to that, but we really have our budget has to come under the expenditure limitation. So, when we look at our budget, our budget has already been at 90%, and exceeding 90% of our expenditure limitation. So, in 2017, we were at 93%, our budget was at 93%. Our budget is required to be under the expenditure limitation. Next slide. So back to the pandemic. In 2020 and 2021, we have the pandemic lockdown. Most of our facilities, if not all of our facilities were closed, libraries were closed, aquatic centers were closed, we didn't hire any of our seasonal workers, so our expenditures were significantly down. We had delays in spending due to

supply chain issues because things we ordered didn't arrive. We also delayed our market and merit adjustments for our employees not knowing what our revenues would look like. We also received \$60 million in one-time federal stimulus monies which is not counted under the expenditure limitation. Any expenditures that we pay for with federal grants or just grant monies in general can be excluded from the expenditure limitation. So, with the federal stimulus money we were able to exclude \$60 million in those years from being included in the expenditure limitation. We will not have these federal stimulus monies moving forward. We also had other one-time grants from the whole pandemic situation that was not counted under the limitation. And we had increased vacancy savings due to the labor shortages during this period.

So, all of these factors with the pandemic significantly reduced our expenditures in fiscal year '20 and '21 and in fiscal year '22, we started incurring some of these expenditures as, you know, our facilities opened, as the supply chain issues eased, as the market and merit adjustments were resumed for our employees. Next slide. So, adjusting the expenditure base will provide for new services and increases and our increased costs without raising our taxes. It will provide for raising the cap and the limitation for our public safety services, for our water costs, for our tourism expenditures, and for new operating costs that we're anticipating with the bond projects. So next slide. So tonight, we are requesting Council approve the resolution to refer this ballot measure to our voters, and next slide. I just wanted to reiterate the ballot measure is not a tax increase. It does not authorize the city to increase or raise taxes. It does not allow the city to exceed our budget or spend more than we have. What it does, it simply adjusts the state formula expenditure base by \$22 million, to allow Scottsdale to maintain our existing and planned services and programs. And with that, I will hand it over to City Clerk Ben to talk about the ballot language.

[Time: 02:59:48]

Ben Lane: Thank you, Sonia. Mayor and members of the Council, the ballot language we will be discussing tonight, again like the previous measure, it was reviewed by the City Attorney's Office and also our outside counsel. Next slide, please. So, this is the ballot language that was discussed by the city Council at its March 5th Work Study meeting. Since that time, there have been some minor revisions made to the proposed ballot language and I will be discussing those proposed changes today. Again, this is the full text option. Again, the full text includes an official title, a descriptive title, and yes/no statements. Again, due to the ballot length, it's unlikely that the full text option will actually be on the ballot. There was not any changes made to the official title nor the descriptive title since we last discussed it with you on March 5th. The descriptive title currently is at 41 words, again with a descriptive title, it's a 50-word limit. As Sonia mentioned, in the descriptive title it notes the city is seeking an adjustment of \$22 million. Next slide, please.

So here are the yes/no statements explaining again what happens if the item passes or if it doesn't. There was a minor change made to the yes statement since our last discussion with the Council on March 5th. As Sonia mentioned, this is not a tax increase. So, we did add that to the yes statement. That is the second sentence on the yes statement. It's not a tax increase. This language was actually used by the city of Scottsdale when it initially went to voters in 1998 for a permanent base adjustment, and then

it was also used again in 2006, when the voters when the city sought an increase to its permanent base adjustment. So, it's been used by the city, both previous times when this item went to the voters. There were no changes to the no statement. Next slide, please. So, here's a tag line text. Again, this is a text that is more likely to appear on the ballot just because of space considerations. There was a change made to the tagline text since we last discussed it. The original tagline that was presented to the Council on March 5th basically was the first part of the current tag line text. It was shall the expenditure base of the city of Scottsdale be permanently adjusted by \$22 million and that's where the question mark was.

Since that time a suggestion was made since it is more likely than not that the tagline text is going to be the text that the voters see to better explain what this item is about, it was suggested to add the second part which is in order to maintain existing and planned city services and programs. There is a 50 word limit to the tag line text. With the added language, we are at 26 words and the yes/no statements would be the exact same as we just discussed in the full text option. Next slide, please. So as Sonia mentioned earlier, what we are requesting tonight is for the Council to adopt Resolution Number 13093, which would refer the permanent base adjustment request to the voters for the November 2024 General Election ballot. And if there ends up being more than one ballot measure referred to the ballot, to direct staff regarding the order of the measures as how they will be placed on the ballot. That's the presentation. Thank you very much.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. At this point, we will go to public comment. We will have four speakers, one is Maryann McAllen, one is Carla, one is Austin Fairbanks, and the final one is Mary Manross. Proceed Maryann McAllen, and Carla.

[Time: 03:03:58]

Maryann McAllen: Thank you, Mayor Ortega, Vice Mayor Whitehead, and members of the Council. I just want to urge you to vote yes to put this to the voters, as it is their money we are spending, and it just gives us the ability to work efficiently. That's no bones about it. So, I encourage you to vote yes to put this resolution on the ballot in order for the voters of Scottsdale to vote. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. Carla and then Austin Fairbanks followed by Mary Manross.

[Time: 03:04:30]

Carla: Hi, I'm still Carla and I still live in Peaceful Valley, and I want to thank you for your previous vote, and I hope you show the same wisdom on this very necessary permanent base adjustment. Frankly, this is something the city should have started monitoring years ago, before we ended up in a position where critical public infrastructure you know, public infrastructure, and public safety programs were in danger of not being implemented. So, it cannot be said enough this is not a tax increase and it is not an override. It is simply letting the city spend money it collects on programs and services that its citizens want and deserve. So, I would ask you to please send this forward so the residents can have their say. After all, it's our safety, and our money. It should be our decision. Thank you.

[Time: 03:05:48]

Austin Fairbanks: Honorable Mayor and Council, good evening, my name is Austin Fairbanks. I am a Scottsdale homeowner at 2938 North 61st Place. This is now my third time speaking before you about the expenditure limitation. In previous Council meetings I have discussed the issue with my thoughts of spending too much and issue raising the constitutional expenditure limitation, as well as issues with the previously presented draft language. And today Council is presented with a request from city staff to approve a ballot measure that would allow the city to spend an additional \$250 million every year in perpetuity or over \$1,000 per resident each year that's if you adjust the \$22 million by the actual 250 for what the adjustment will be in reality. I say this is a request from city staff because frankly in the two prior meetings I attended, I haven't heard everyday citizens clamoring for this issue to be addressed. Instead, we heard from city employees, and representatives of city employees for the most part in the prior two meetings I attended, on why this is important to them. And respectfully Council, I think your jobs are to represent the citizens and not necessarily the city staff who offer valuable insight sometimes.

The supposed necessary of the constitutional work around is because the city is spending too much. Let's not ignore the fact this was approved by over 80% of the voters to put a check on the growth of city spending. The fact is the city has managed the expenditure limitation for the past decade plus, the long-term average until 2023 it's just under 90%. And it wasn't until this fiscal year when the budget projects touching the 99% threshold. We have a spending problem here in Scottsdale and the solution is not to increase spending by \$1,000 a citizen. I would like to conclude my time here to address the proposed ballot language. I still think the ballot language should be unbiased factual neutral. So, on that note the yes answer currently includes it's not a tax increase. That's true but I could also say it's not a bond approval. It's not a budget override. It's not a tax reduction. It's not a land acquisition. It's not land disposition. There's any number of things that this is not, and I don't think you need to include that in your yes statement that this is not this or it's not that, just say what it does, and the voters will make up their mind based on what they know. You don't need to include that on the ballot language. And if you decide to put it before the voters, I ask you exclude that language it is not a tax increase because it's unnecessary. Thank you for your time today and I appreciate it.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. Honorable Mary Manross.

[Time: 03:08:05]

Mary Manross: Good evening. Thanks again. I'm here to obviously to ask you to please let us put this on the ballot so the citizens can make the decision. I was mayor in 2006, when we have the last P.B.A., what we call the Permanent Base Adjustment. And I can tell you that the responsible thing to do and it is necessary for a city to do this every several years, whether you are a fast growing or a slow-growing city, you need to consider doing this every several years. And for someone to say that our city is just spending too much money when we have low property taxes, when we have a very low sales tax, when we have AAA bond ratings year after year after decade after decade, when we receive meritorious achievement awards on our budgeting nationally every year for our decades, we clearly are accountable for the dollars that the citizens are giving to us. So, I'm asking you to please support this permanent base adjustment. It's necessary because we need to be able to keep providing services and needs that our

citizens have asked and demanded and have a right to get. Thank you so much.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. At this time, I will close public comment. I see Councilwoman Janik wishes to speak and then myself and Vice Mayor Whitehead.

[Time: 03:09:36]

Councilwoman Janik: Thank you, Mayor. The one request I would have is that we don't let this happen again. Could we please set a schedule that we regularly review these numbers? Be it every year, every five years so that we are not in this position again when we are so close to our spending limit. With that in mind, I would like to make a motion, motion number one, I move to adopt Resolution Number 13093, referring the proposed Permanent Base Adjustment ballot measure to the voters in the upcoming November 2024 General Election.

Mayor Ortega: Second. So, we have a motion, and I will speak to my second. First of all, I do support bringing this forward to the ballot. It is because we do, we are a high-performance city with outstanding facilities and services, and we want to keep it that way. You know, recently, I was preparing my words today, and I reached into my drawer and somehow, I found a Macy's card. And my Macy's card spoke to me. And it said, good since 2001. So, this is an old card, okay? Imagine that. What we're looking at today is that we're looking at a formula prescribed by the state based on 1980 dollars and its based on Scottsdale in 1980. And it's a formula that allowed for change, just as, you know, some credit boundary, or whatever I had 20 or 40 years ago got revised, certainly that's appropriate.

So, the state of Arizona has this formula. And a formula within the formula. And as stated in January on the 23rd, we set a policy that said three things. We set a financial policy that said we should at least look at our capacity every five years. Item number two was that the Treasurer shall alert us if we hit the 90%, you know red line. And three the Treasurer would use the formula within the formula, which she has done and present it to us for action. Now, the formula also derived a number of \$22 million, which is going to be checked by the State Auditor and that's standard procedure for all of these other cities as well. So, what we are looking at today is, you know, it's way past due. We are at least 13 years past due on looking at this. I'm glad our Council unanimously set the policy back in January because that sets the policy for future Councils as well. So, that is my piece, I will support it, bring it forward. I think it's very easy to understand. I understand it very well myself, okay? And with that we will go to Vice Mayor Whitehead and then Councilmember Graham and Councilmember Durham.

[Time: 03:13:18]

Vice Mayor Whitehead: Thank you so much. Ben, can you pull up the language that will be on the ballot again? Okay. No, just what we expect.

Ben Lane: The tag line text.

Vice Mayor Whitehead: What we expect to be on the ballot. The tagline, thank you. Okay, so how many words is that?

Ben Lane: That is 26, I believe.

Vice Mayor Whitehead: And how many words are we allowed?

Ben Lane: We are allowed 50.

Vice Mayor Whitehead: Right. So, what I, so what the residents expect of us is not to, is to make clear what it is that they are voting on so when I read that, it looks like, especially coming after an additional tax from above, it does look like permanently adjusted \$22 million it looks like an additional \$22 million. So, I wonder if my colleagues would be open to saying having the same line at the end that says this is not a tax to add clarity.

Ben Lane: So, normally, Vice Mayor, this is a question.

Vice Mayor Whitehead: Okay. All right. I will accept it. Our voters, the 150,000 voters that we have always amaze me at how well they discern what it is we are doing up here and get it right. So, I'm fine with it then. I'm definitely supporting this and I'm grateful. It's amazing that we've had 12 years of a mayor that did not take this on. I'm grateful for Mayor Manross taking it on and coming here to make sure that we do as well. So, thank you, Mayor Manross.

Mayor Ortega: Councilmember Graham, Councilmember Durham, Councilwoman Caputi. Proceed.

Councilmember Graham: Thank you, Mayor. You know, this is to the City Attorney. Sorry to put you on the spot there. But just, when the citizen, Mr. Fairbanks talked about it's not a tax. I guess it got me kind of wondering. We don't do that really for any other ballot measure, we don't say what it is not. It's not land acquisition. It's not a tax reduction. What in your opinion is sort of the background of that?

[Time: 03:15:50]

Sherry Scott: Well, I can tell you that I believe that that's been in the ballot language before.

Councilmember Graham: Yes, it has. I know it's repeat language, but I'm just kind of curious.

Sherry Scott: Let me give you my thought on it.

Councilmember Graham: Okay. Because we talk about how, you know Vice Mayor Whitehead, just how discerning voters are, and it seems like, please.

Sherry Scott: Well, I think it's easy for voters to potentially confuse this with a tax, and that's why the clarifying language, "this is not a tax" is likely being proposed in your ballot language. We see adjusted by \$22 million in order to maintain existing and planned city services and programs. Usually when something like that comes before the voters, it's a tax. And I think that clarifying language does help explain to the voters that this is just the expenditure limit. This is the permanent base adjustment, not

to be confused with a tax.

Councilmember Graham: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Sherry. Just a couple of comments. I would just friendly disagreement with some of my colleagues. We do track this very closely; it's audited every year. It's submitted. These reports come to us. We watch it every year and we've watched it very closely over the years. And this, I would also disagree, that this is not formulaic. This goes very clearly with C.P.I. increases and with population growth. Population growth has been tough because of a number of factors, including the STRs and all that stuff that's taken away, residency. So, it does go up, but it is, I do agree with the comment that it's a high-performing city, we are succeeding, this is success. People are coming here and spending more money. And so, I do think, I appreciate Mayor Manross coming back and closing round two. It's good to see you again. And so, I wanted to comment on those and thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. Next, we have Councilmember Durham, Councilwoman Caputi.

[Time: 03:18:15]

Councilmember Durham: Thank you, thank you, Mayor. I think it's important to that it is not a tax because we know some people are going to portray this as a tax. So, and we know who they are. So, we need all the leverage we can to make it clear and inform the people of Scottsdale that this is not a tax increase.

Councilmember Graham: Who are they?

Councilmember Durham: Who are they? Well, if you think 175 to 170 is a tax increase, I will just leave it at that. I just want to say one thing about how important this is. Recently our Police Department did a great job of hunting down a burglary ring that was a huge concern in Scottsdale. And how did they do it? They did it with a lot of high-tech doodads and that's a technical term. And I don't want to tell the Chief, "Yeah, you can't buy that high-tech stuff anymore because we are running up against a budget limitation." That's literally what is at stake is funding our fire and police and, et cetera. So, this is crucial, you know, for the future of our city and I strongly support it. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Okay, Councilwoman Caputi and then Councilwoman Littlefield.

[Time: 03:19:51]

Councilwoman Caputi: I am just again going to keep my comments super brief. We're being asked whether we want to refer this to the voters. Of course, we want to refer this to the voters. I will just add that our city motto. I always test myself by writing it down during the Council meetings. It's simply better service for a world-class city. So, I mean, this is what our residents expect, and this is what they pay. We are an aspirational city. Our residents pay more to live here. We absolutely need to refer this to the ballot and let our residents decide. So, I wholeheartedly support that. Also, no one has mentioned about order on the ballot. Do we need to? Okay, I will stop there. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Do you wish to speak?

Councilwoman Littlefield: Sure.

Mayor Ortega: Okay, I'm sorry. I thought so. So go ahead, Councilwoman.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Thank you. I didn't know you did doodads. How many and how much do they cost? Oh, don't tell me. I support this measure. I think this is something we need to do just to keep us abreast of the increases in our expenses, our costs, the prices of things that we buy, we need to continue with the high level of services that we have and the high level of product that we use to keep our city beautiful. So, I do support this. And I will be voting for it. It's up to the citizens to say yay or nay. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Okay. We have a motion and a second. Please record your vote. That's unanimous. I also see a wish to speak, Councilwoman Janik.

Councilwoman Janik: Just a quick comment. This allows us to pay down our pension liability and that is exceedingly important. And without raising the base adjustment, we are really going to have a difficult time trying to pay that down. So, I think that's a real important consideration.

Mayor Ortega: Okay. So, then I will make a motion that we have passed or to bring forward two ballot measures. So therefore, I move that the order of the ballot measures be in order as deliberated first the Protect and Preserve, that was Item 14, secondly Item Number 15. So that's the direction. I make a motion.

Vice Mayor Whitehead: Second.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. I have a motion and a second. Seeing no further discussion, please record your vote. Thank you. That's unanimous. At this point, we have concluded our Regular Agenda Items.

PUBLIC COMMENT

[Time: 03:22:50]

Mayor Ortega: I now reopen public comment. The opportunity for public to come forward. None wishing to speak. Therefore, I will close the public comment.

CITIZEN PETITION

[Time: 03:23:00]

Mayor Ortega: I am moving on to Citizen Petition, Item Number 16. It's an opportunity to record something with the Clerk. Seeing none, I close that item.

ADJOURNMENT

[Time: 03:23:13]

Mayor Ortega: Finally, I would request a motion and a second to adjourn.

Vice Mayor Whitehead: So moved.

Councilmember Janik: Second.

Mayor Ortega: Please record your vote. Thank you. We will record our votes, please. You two. You two. Vote. Vote. Thank you. We are unanimous. Thank you.