



## City of Goodyear

### Meeting Minutes

#### City Council Work Session

Mayor Georgia Lord  
Vice Mayor Bill Stipp  
Councilmember Joe Pizzillo  
Councilmember Sheri Lauritano  
Councilmember Wally Campbell  
Councilmember Brannon Hampton  
Councilmember Laura Kaino

Goodyear Municipal Court  
and Council Chambers  
14455 W. Van Buren St.,  
Suite B101  
Goodyear, AZ 85338

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Monday, October 19, 2020

6:00 PM

Goodyear Municipal Court and Council  
Chambers

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**While the Goodyear City Council meetings are open to the public, the occupancy has been reduced to implement social distancing. Seating is generally available on a first come basis, but meeting attendees will be cycling in and out so attendees may be present during items of interest.**

**Face Masks are required and must be worn when moving throughout the building.**

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lord called the Work Session to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

**Present** 7 - Mayor Lord, Vice Mayor Bill Stipp, Councilmember Pizzillo, Councilmember Lauritano, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Hampton, and Councilmember Kaino

Staff Present: City Manager Julie Arendall, City Attorney Roric Massey and City Clerk Darcie McCracken

#### AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. [2020-7040ws](#) Council will receive information on the 5-year water, wastewater, solid waste and stormwater rate plans, discussion of Citizen Rate Review Committee comments, and next steps. (Doug Sandstrom, Finance Director)

Public Works Director Javier Setovich introduced the Utility Rate Study project for the proposed 5-year funding needs for water, wastewater, solid waste and stormwater rate plans. Mr. Setovich stated the Citizen Rate Review Committee (Committee) helped put together the rate review proposal. He recognized those Committee members present. Mr. Setovich reviewed the history of the rate study and the current structure for rates and funding. He spoke about the regulatory requirements as well as the cost of service study that was completed.

Finance Director Doug Sandstrom reviewed the items that the rates were intended to support, and introduced Dan Jackson from Willdan Consulting. Mr. Jackson stated that the city continues to grow and costs for water continue to rise. He said it is important to do these rate reviews as most large expenditures are planned and the due dates are usually known. He added that it is a better service to the public to gradually increase rates rather than having a large increase at one time.

Mr. Jackson reviewed the current rate structure based on usage for water and wastewater. He cautioned about doing a line by line comparison to other cities as not all cities have a 100% cost recovery and have their General Funds subsidize the service. He reviewed the historical and forecast water accounts with an estimate of 28,000 water accounts by 2029.

Mr. Jackson reviewed the residential monthly usage per account and spoke about the Council's intent to have customers use water prudently. He said that the City had been successful and the trend showed that the average use per account had been reduced. He reviewed the water and wastewater utility major capital improvement projects including costs, and commented that they were direct investments in the future of the city of Goodyear.

Council expressed opposition to charging all residents for General Obligation Bonds that only benefit City water users and indicated they may vote against the water rate increase.

Council asked if the costs of increased technology and operational efficiencies were factored into the budget and if they were sufficient to meet the changing needs. Mr. Setovich explained that yes, all of the projects incorporated a new way of doing things with the goal of safety, reliability, and improvement.

Council asked that information be shared with the citizens regarding what was included in the calculation of the rates and that other cities' rates were used as a comparison.

Council asked if there were allocations towards conservation specifically. Mr. Setovich responded that yes, there were funds built in to continue to support conservation efforts and as the year progressed, online classes and other activities would be brought forward to engage residents.

Council commented that the flow in some apartment complexes would not be meeting conservation efforts as the flow seemed to be very slow. Council requested a study to occur in high-density areas.

Council asked about the irrigation users. Mr. Sandstrom responded that most of the schools, parks and homeowner associations are serviced by irrigation. He added that the recommendation was to not increase the irrigation rate and to encourage conservation.

Council asked about overdue accounts as a result of COVID-19, and how users can pay for services. Mr. Sandstrom replied that the City has seen an increase of about 10% in overdue accounts, which was about 300-330 accounts out of 20,000 accounts are past due.

Mr. Jackson went on to discuss the Solid Waste Utility and reviewed the recommendation for the solid waste rate plan which included a slight decrease in the monthly fee.

Council asked about the future of the recycling program. Mr. Setovich explained that before COVID-19, the program had already experienced some challenges due to a decline in the market for recyclables. He added that discussions continue to determine when the right time would be to continue the program.

Mr. Jackson reviewed the recommendation for the Stormwater fee.

Council asked where the money came from for stormwater related items. Mr. Sandstrom responded that operational and regulatory items were paid from the Wastewater Fund and capital projects were paid from the General Fund. He added the Stormwater program would be set up as an Enterprise Fund.

Council inquired where the stormwater goes. Mr. Setovich explained that there are several locations where stormwater is collected which included the Bullard Wash.

Council asked if there was a way to use that stormwater. Mr. Setovich responded that there needed to be infrastructure in place to collect the stormwater, but based on the amount of stormwater the City received, the return on investment for building the infrastructure for that collection would not be beneficial. He added that the City could see some incidental groundwater credits from the stormwater.

Council asked if there were things the City needed to do to comply when dealing with stormwater. Mr. Setovich responded yes, that this presentation was more on the rates, but there were reports submitted to the State of Arizona that described how the City maintained compliance when dealing with the stormwater.

Mr. Sandstrom discussed the comments from the Citizen Rate Review Committee and their intent to smooth the rate increases in years 2-5. He added that the intent was to adopt one year only and that future years would be part of the citywide fee reviews.

Mr. Sandstrom went on to review the next steps involved in the water and wastewater rate increase that included adopting the Notice of Intent at the October 26th Regular Council meeting and the methods of public outreach.

2. [2020-7066ws](#) Staff will provide Council with an update on the Goodyear Recreation Campus project and provide recommendations for the new recreation and aquatics center and system-wide park rental fees. (Nathan Torres, Parks & Recreation Director; David Seid, Parks & Recreation Manager; Mike Beadle, Recreation Superintendent)

Parks and Recreation Director Nathan Torres introduced the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee as well as members of staff that would be presenting an update on the Goodyear Recreation Campus (Recreation Campus).

Mr. Torres spoke about the Recreation Campus and how it was designed by the community for the community. He noted that the project is on time, on budget, and has an expected opening in the Summer of 2021.

Recreation Superintendent Mike Beadle reviewed various aspects of the Recreation Campus and gave an update on the construction. Parks and Recreation Manager David Seid discussed the fee schedule and how it differentiated from the 2018 presentation related to programs.

Council asked what each fee would include. Mr. Beadle reviewed the fee schedule adding that the fees were for access to both the Recreation and Aquatics Center.

Council asked if there would be programs to allow low-income families to participate. Mr. Beadle responded that there would be free activity areas and a scholarship program for low-income families to apply for to offset part or all of the fees.

Council asked how the punch pass would work. Mr. Beadle stated with the implementation of the new recreation software, passes would be digital and touchless, allowing users to scan their “punch pass” from their phone.

Council asked what the standard family was defined as. Mr. Beadle responded that two adults and two children were defined as a family.

Council asked if the fees would be charged as a lump sum or collected as a payment plan. Mr. Beadle explained that there would be various payment plans available to users.

Mr. Beadle went on to discuss the fee schedule for rentals within the Recreation and Aquatics Center adding that rates were developed to be affordable for residents.

Council wanted to ensure that amenities would be available to the public and not constantly booked for private events. Mr. Beadle replied that there would be a limited window where private groups could rent the facility such as not being able to rent during open swim when the facility is open to the public.

Council asked if there was a plan to work with the two schools near the Recreation Campus. Mr. Seid responded that Parks and Recreation staff was in contact with the schools to try to meet their needs and have them participate in the programs.

Council asked if the Aquatics Center would be available for use year-round. Mr. Seid stated the slides, lazy river, and splash pool would be used seasonally while the lap pool would be available

year-round.

Mr. Beadle reviewed the system-wide park rental fees that applied to all of the new and existing parks.

Mr. Seid finalized the discussion with a brief review of the next steps involved in the fee process which included the fees becoming effective January 15, 2021.

Council asked if there would be incentives for early Recreation Center pass sales. Mr. Seid commented that once the fee schedule was approved, pre-sale incentives would be advertised for purchase.

Council commented that the family pass fee should be a flat fee and not a fee based on family size.

Council thanked staff for their professionalism and organization.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

Mayor Lord thanked the Goodyear Police and Fire Departments for the funeral escort.

City Manager Julie Arendall shared information on the drive-through Fall Festival that would be held at the Goodyear Ballpark.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Lord adjourned the Work Session at 8:11 p.m.

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Darcie McCracken, City Clerk

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Georgia Lord, Mayor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_