

Town of Gila Bend

Minutes of the March 9, 2010 Town Council Work Session

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. **Mayor Henry called the Work Session to order at 5:03pm.**

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Ron Henry
Vice-Mayor Fred Hull
Council Member Fernando Fernandez
Council Member Armida Gonzalez

Council Member Chuck Turner
Council Member James "Bud" Turner
Council Member Donny Young - absent

Staff Present: Town Manager Buss, Town Attorney McClure, Public Works Director Parsi, Community Development Director Fitzer, Fire Chief Birchfield, Airport Manager Drury Records Clerk Eisenberger.

III. WORK SESSION (the Town Council cannot take action on any of these subjects because they are on the agenda for discussion only)

A. SR85 Bypass. The Mayor and Council shall discuss SR85 Bypass options during construction, with Paul Patane of the Arizona Department of Transportation. **Discussion Only Bruce Fenske, P.E. with ADOT introduced himself and apologized that Mr. Paul Patane was unable to attend as planned. He noted that the meeting tonight is to address three issues: 1) update the Council, Staff and public, 2) input and possible decision on an alternative detour plan and 3) input on color choices. Mr. Fenske introduced Clark Clatanoff, AMEC design team, and Dave Miller, ADOT Highway Maintenance. An overview of the map and an orientation of the project was provided. An opportunity to reduce the construction time by 35% from 22 months to 14 months approximately if closed down B-8 with a detour beginning at and on to Main Street to Martin and exiting on to Pima with large trucks rerouted around town via Watermelon Road and returning to I-8 near McDonalds (Gila Blvd.). Mr. Fenske advised that a quick study would be done to determine what would be required if B-8 was closed including road improvements, a temporary signal at Pima and Martin, improvements would be beneficial to the Town, and at no expense to the Town, and all improvements to remain once project completed. He further commented that this meeting was primarily to give the option of having the project being completed faster with the detour or keep as planned with detours. Council Member C. Turner stated that he would like to hear from some of the business owners that would be affected. Steve Holt, Holts Shell, stated that he was speaking on behalf of four business owners, that 60% of the business they receive is off of Butterfield Trail, there are 55 full-time and 10 part-time employees whose jobs would be affected, and it would be better for their businesses to proceed as planned even though construction time would be longer. John Augsberger, Augie's Quail Trail RV Park, noted that his business would be considerably diminished and his tax base contributions are high. Lynn Wheeler, America's Choice Inn & Suites, asked if the funds were approved for the longer construction time, questioned what would happen to the employees who would have to be laid off if B-8 shut down, and what benefits would the business owners receive from shorter construction time. Mr. Fenske commented that the benefits would be a shorter construction time, permanent improvements to some roads, and that they have Public Information personnel to keep everyone up-to-date. Discussion on reluctance of Council to approve anything detrimental to business owners, SR85/Pima St. traffic remaining the same, separation of large truck traffic done by signage, and possible negative impact it would have on businesses on Pima St. east of Martin Ave. Carole Fox, Space Age Lodge & Restaurant, made an unofficial motion from the floor that everyone would be happier with the longer construction time as it would have to big of an effect on businesses to take the shorter construction time option. Discussion on if there was consideration of doing a by-pass over the railroad tracks, using the steam**

generator route, but the scheduling criteria for funding prevents this option. Town Manager Buss noted that the meeting was held for input purposes and questioned whether formal action at the next Council meeting would give ADOT enough time. Discussion on landscaping provided but maintenance upkeep of it will have to be done by the Town which will be reflected in an IGA, additional trees will be added, and focus would be on the first 1,000 feet with trees on both sides in the over-pass area. Discussion on the color choices available for the three retaining walls, one wall with 22 ft. elevation and two walls with an 8-9 foot elevation. Discussion on the plans include a relief, vertical rustification, that adds two additional inches of material to create the pattern and adding decomposed granite to match color chosen, Discussion on working with the Town regarding utilities planned for the future, need capability to extend lines to airport and beyond, and ADOT's being aware of plans to extend. Mayor Henry thanked ADOT and AMEC representatives for their input and information. Mr. Fenske commented that they could return in two weeks time to be available at the next meeting to answer any further questions.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member C. Turner moved to adjourn the Work Session. Motion seconded by Vice Mayor Hull. Motion passed unanimously; 6-0. Time of adjournment: 5:46pm.

Ron Henry, Mayor

ATTEST:

Beverly Turner, CMC
Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Work Session held March 9, 2010, and the meeting was duly called and posted and that a quorum was present.

Beverly Turner, CMC
Town Clerk