Minutes of the Tempe City Council Work Study Session held on Thursday, May 25, 2017, 4:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:
Mayor Mark W. Mitchell
Vice Mayor Robin Arredondo-Savage
Councilmember Kolby Granville
Councilmember Randy Keating
Councilmember Lauren Kuby
Councilmember Joel Navarro (participated telephonically)
Councilmember David Schapira (participated telephonically; arrived at 5:06 p.m.)

STAFF PRESENT:
Andrew B. Ching, City Manager
Judi Baumann, City Attorney
Brigitta M. Kuiper, City Clerk
Shelley Hearn, Community Services Director
Chad Weaver, Community Development Director
Various Department Heads or their representatives
Ken Jones, Deputy City Manager – Chief Financial Officer
Steven Methvin, Deputy City Manager – Chief Operating Officer
Ralph Remington, Community Services Deputy Dir. – Arts and Culture
Luis Ruiz, Tempe Center for the Arts General Manager
Ryan Levesque, Deputy Community Development Director – Planning
Tony Miano, Deputy Public Works Director – Field Operations

Mayor Mitchell called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

Call to the Audience
David Lucier, Tempe, spoke in support of renewing the Arts and Culture Tax (Tax) because it will benefit the community.

Frank Williams, Vice President, Friends of the Tempe Center for the Arts (TCA), discussed the importance of improving the quality of life for Tempe residents and supporting the arts. He supports renewing the Tax because it will provide arts and cultural amenities and opportunities in the community.

Mel Kessler and Gail Fisher, Tempe, noted their service on the original Arts Tax Committee and in the Friends of the TCA. They spoke in favor of the 0.1 cent Tax, and requested that it only support arts and cultural activities and programs.

Issue Review Session Items
Vote by Mail Election, 2018
Brigitta Kuiper, City Clerk, introduced Reynaldo “Rey” Valenzuela, Director, Maricopa County Elections Department (MCED), and Kristi Passarelli, Assistant Director, MCED. Ms. Kuiper explained the vote by mail concept.

Mr. Valenzuela stated that 80 to 90% of the results for County-wide elections are provided by mail. If a voter prefers, they can vote in person or drop off their voted ballot at a Ballot Center (BC). BCs will be located in every jurisdiction. In addition, the three Maricopa County Recorder’s locations in Phoenix and Mesa will host a BC. BCs will include equipment to print replacement ballots on demand and 12 check-in terminals to help accelerate the process. Most of these sites will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. throughout the 27-day early voting period. Arizona State University (ASU) is a partner site that could be open for up to the 27 days for early voting. Vote by mail removes all obstacles to voting, and provides multiple opportunities for people to vote in person.
In response to inquiries, Mr. Valenzuela stated that a Community Relations Team will provide community outreach and education, and that 100 ballot center sites are expected County-wide. Ms. Kuiper noted that 1,200 individuals voted in person in the 2016 City of Tempe election. Mr. Valenzuela continued, stating that the vote by mail packet and envelope is colored. In addition, people will be able to vote faster in person using the ballot-on-demand process.

Mr. Valenzuela explained the self-check-in process at the BCs and the signature verification security feature. Audio ballot and touch screen ballot options are also available for voters with disabilities.

Councilmembers requested that groups, including the Arizona Advocacy Network, College Republicans, Young Democrats, and ASU’s Undergraduate Student Government and the Graduate Student Association be included in the stakeholder process. Mr. Valenzuela stated that MCED has a point of contact at ASU and can reach out to those groups.

Ms. Kuiper reviewed changes in voting options over the past 10 years; noted that vote by mail elections in other Valley jurisdictions have seen an increase in voter turnout; and, outlined the fees for a polling place election versus a vote by mail election. If supported by City Council, the next steps include public outreach and education. City Council action is required by October, 2017, to implement vote by mail elections in 2018.

In response to inquiries, Ms. Kuiper stated that at City Council direction, staff is prepared to begin the public outreach process, which will include education on the timeframe and deadlines for voting. Mr. Valenzuela explained that every mailed ballot will be tracked; after two returned mailings, the voter’s address would be deactivated and no further ballots would be mailed for two federal elections (four years).

Councilmembers agreed to explore a vote by mail election in 2018. Staff will solicit public input, and provide an update to the City Council at a future Work Study Session.

Proposed Arts and Culture Tax
Ralph Remington, Community Services Deputy Director – Arts and Culture, introduced co-presenters Luis Ruiz, Tempe Center for the Arts (TCA) General Manager, and Shelley Hearn, Community Services Director. Mr. Remington presented background information on the Arts and Culture Tax (Tax), TCA, and the Tempe Arts and Culture Plan (Plan). The current Tax expires in December, 2020. Mr. Remington outlined the completed, ongoing, and planned activities to implement the Plan.

Mr. Ruiz presented the following funding options beyond 2020 and the associated impacts:

- **Option A (no Tax renewal)** – TCA operates strictly as a rental facility and host to community partners and social events; eliminates all current and future programming plans; and, operates at an annual deficit of $3.6 million.
- **Option B (0.07 cent Tax, in perpetuity)** – funds the current TCA initiatives and programs, including small increases in public arts programming. This option is projected to generate $6.2 million by 2020.
- **Option C (renewal of the current 0.1 cent Tax, in perpetuity)** – supports expanding arts and culture events and programming; reallocates certain arts and culture programs from the General Fund; installs and maintains public art; and, creates a Capital Facilities/Operations Fund. This option is projected to generate $8.7 million by 2020.

Mr. Ruiz reviewed a chart outlining the projected Arts, Culture, and TCA funding from the Performing Arts Fund, General Fund, and Municipal Arts Fund, for fiscal year (FY) 2017-2018, and for FY 2020-2021, based on the three options. At City Council direction, funding could be reallocated from the General Fund and Municipal Arts Fund to the Performing Arts Fund.

In response to an inquiry, Mr. Ruiz clarified that the $8.7 million projection for Option C includes funds from the Capital Improvements Program. The General Fund figures were included for presentation purposes.

Councilmembers expressed support for placing Option C on the November, 2018 election ballot; not moving funding from the General Fund to the Performing Arts Fund; and, forming a committee of volunteers to help campaign for renewal of the current Tax. Councilmembers commended staff for their work implementing the Plan; advancing Tempe’s reputation as an art-friendly city; and, expanding arts and cultural events, productions, and programming at the TCA.
In response to inquiries, Mr. Remington stated that the Plan calls for expansion of the arts in all forms. Staff will conduct intrinsic impact evaluations to assess the impacts of the arts and cultural programs, facilities, and activities on the participants, based on national measures. The City Council’s Quality of Life Strategic Priority includes arts and culture-related performance measures.

In response to additional inquiries, Mr. Ruiz clarified that General Fund monies would not be utilized for the arts. Option C would return $892,000 to the General Fund to be spent on other items; the Municipal Arts Fund of $670,000 would be dedicated solely to public art projects. The annual debt service of $3.4 million is expected to be paid off in June, 2020.

City Council agreed to move forward with Option C to extend the current 0.1 cent sales tax, in perpetuity, and to place this initiative on the November 2018 election ballot.

Parking Requirements for Skyview Development (903 South Terrace Road)
Ryan Levesque, Deputy Community Development Director – Planning, stated that on January 26, 2017, City Council approved the Skyview Development Project. As required by a condition of approval, the applicant conducted a parking by demand model to determine an appropriate reduction in parking of up to 30% of the proposed 540 spaces. The model proposed a 14% parking reduction, for a total of 462 spaces.

Vice Mayor Arredondo-Savage stated that a City Manager’s Working Group, including herself, Mayor Mitchell, Councilmember Navarro, and Arizona State University representatives, has drafted recommendations to not make exceptions to the Transportation Overlay District (TOD) parking standards. She opposes reducing Skyview’s parking because adequate parking would be needed if the rental units converted to homeownership units in the future.

Councilmember Kuby stated that she supports the proposal and believes the parking should be reduced further. She noted that the developer could offer financial incentives to tenants to use the nearby light rail station and other transportation options, to decrease the need for parking.

In response to an inquiry, Chad Weaver, Community Development Director, stated that the TOD study will evaluate potential changes to parking standards and other regulations. Staff supports Skyview’s proposal, and advocates for a greater parking reduction.

Councilmembers expressed support for the modest 14% reduction in parking because it was appropriate; supported Tempe’s goal to be a multi-modal city; and, supports transportation options, including self-driving vehicles and vehicle sharing programs. CivTech conducted the parking by demand model; their report provides data supporting the reduction.

City Council agreed to move forward with the 14% parking reduction for the Skyview development.

Joe Pospicil Naming Request
Mayor Mitchell stated that this item will be postponed to a later date since the requester, Art Jacobs, could not attend this meeting. Staff will present an update to the Procedure for Naming of City Facilities at a future City Council meeting.

Tempe Town Lake Masterplan Update and Zip Line Amenity
Shelley Hearn, Community Services Director, presented background information on a 2014 Request for Proposal that received three responses for a Tempe Town Lake recreational amenity, including a tour boat and zip line. An extensive stakeholder and public input process is planned for the Tempe Town Lake Masterplan, and an architectural consulting firm has been selected. Tony Miano, Deputy Public Works Director – Field Operations, noted that staff is negotiating the contract for the Masterplan, with the process anticipated to begin June, 2017; a final draft is expected by the end of 2017, or early 2018.

Councilmembers expressed support for exploring additional amenities and programming for Tempe Town Lake. Staff will conduct stakeholder outreach and provide updates to the City Council.
Future Agenda Items
Brigitta Kuiper, City Clerk, stated that the Bus Pullout Decision Matrix item can be removed from the list of topics for future agenda items; staff will provide an update in a memorandum to the City Council. Councilmembers agreed with this change.

Call to the Audience
None.

Committee of the Whole Items
Items ready for City Council Direction or Status Update
Small House Community (Tiny Houses) – City Council Direction
Councilmember Kuby provided background information on Arizona State University’s Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS) students’ “Humble Homes” project to design a tiny house community on City-owned property at 1443 South Rita Lane, which was presented to City Council in June, 2016. This project also includes a possible partnership with the East Valley Institute of Technology. Staff drafted a Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit proposals to develop an affordable housing project modeled after a tiny home community. Since the property was purchased with Community Development Block Grant funds, a minimum 51% of the developed units must be available for rent or purchase to families at 80% annual median income, or below. The RFP seeks to increase the availability of workforce or affordable housing beyond the 51% requirement, and gives extra weight to sustainable building technologies and materials. Councilmember Kuby thanked staff for their work on this item.

Councilmembers expressed support for including workforce or affordable housing in this project, and agreed to move forward with the RFP.

New Items for City Council Consideration
None.

Items in Progress – updates as needed
None.

Mayor’s Announcements/City Manager’s Announcements
None.

Future Meeting Date:
Wednesday, June 14, 2017, at 5:00 p.m., City Council Chambers, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

The meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

I, Brigitta M. Kuiper, the duly-appointed City Clerk of the City of Tempe, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby certify the above to be the minutes of the City Council Work Study Session of May 25, 2017, by the Tempe City Council, Tempe, Arizona.

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Mark W. Mitchell, Mayor

ATTEST:

Brigitta M. Kuiper, City Clerk