

Public Hearing At Regular Meeting

Council session starts after special hearing

By Christina Fuoco-Karasinski
The News

The Apache Junction City Council will hear public comment at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 6, on Proposed Ordinance No. 1364, which would amend the zoning district map in response to a request to rezone four acres from GR to CR-5/PD for construction of a 43-unit senior housing facility.

The two-story facility is proposed for Valley Drive and Greasewood Street. The Planning and Zoning Com-

mission recommended approval of the ordinance by a 5-0 vote on June 8.

Also on the agenda, Keith Bedwell, a public works mechanic, will be honored for his 30 years of service with the City of Apache Junction.

Under "Old Business," the council will hear a presentation on and discuss the Downtown Redevelopment and Implementation Strategy. At the direction of the council, the Fiscal Year 2008 Community Development Block Grant funds were dedicated

to completing a Downtown Redevelopment and Implementation Strategy. G and G Consulting was selected to assist the City in developing this strategy. Council has received updates via public meetings in October 2009 and March 2010. Ed Gawf of G and G Consulting and his team will provide this project status update with the final plan being presented to council in August.

The council will also hear a presentation and discuss potential projects for the sub-

mission of a fiscal year 2010 State Special Project Application.

Under "New Business," there are nine items.

- Consideration of Proposed Resolution No. 10-12, authorizing the submission of an Arizona Department of Commerce Arizona Biofuels Conversion Grant Application and Committing local funds as leverage.
- Presentation and discussion on requested development fee appeal from Colleen Ryan.
- Presentation, Discussion

and Consideration of proposed ratification to the purchase of computer services from Dell L.P. in the amount not to exceed \$108,000.

- Presentation and Discussion on second amendment to agreement for material and labor to lower and raise manholes and valves with Talis Construction Corp.
- Presentation and discussion on second amendment to agreement for paving materials with Mesa Materials Inc.
- Presentation and Discussion second amendment to agreement for pre-coated chips with Mesa Materials Inc.
- Presentation and discussion on the extension of contract PW-2009-09 bulk fuel.
- Discussion, presentation and consideration of PW-2010-02 janitorial services



Mayor John Insalaco

award of bid to GCA Services Group Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$117,320.10.

- Presentation and discussion on Proposed Resolution No. 10-27, approving a minor General Plan text amendment.

The next meetings, scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, July 19, and Tuesday, July 20, are canceled. The City Council meeting will next meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, August 2, and Tuesday, August 3.

from City Budget, A-1

\$8 over a five-year period. The hit to Public Works would start in December. The General Fund would be hit in July.

"The San Tan threat is real and tangible," Hoffman said. "If it happens, it will hit us at a time where we are already in a weakened financial condition."

- State Budget—"Is their problem solved or will they continue to impact us?" Hoffman asked rhetorically. "Proposition 100 passed but I'm not convinced that this means the State won't try and take money from us and/or interfere with our ability to collect taxes and fees... and/or add new or increased fees." It has already eliminated LTAF I and II funds.

LTAF I has historically been the City's source of revenue for traffic signalization; and LTAF II historically has been the City's source of revenue for Senior Service transportation

- Hoffman is not sure what the State may do with Highways User Revenue Fund (HURF) funding. "There is some concern that even more of it could be utilized to fund the State Department of Public Safety," he said.

- Census—In February

2011, the City will find out its population. "We anticipate that our proportionate share—our percentage of the overall population in the state—may decrease," Hoffman said. "How much? How will that impact revenues to the City?"

- State Shared Income Tax for FY 2011/2012 will decline. It is not known how much it will decline.

- Health, Retirement, Liability and Workers Compensation are all costs that are trending upward.

- Utilities—SRP has increased more than 4 percent. Gasoline prices remain an uncertainty.

Hoffman also went over other issues regarding the budget.

The community's safety—public safety, city attorney and court—remains a core value in the proposed budget.

"That being said, in no way should the funding level be viewed as optimal," Hoffman said. "But with an extraordinary level of support from Chief (Jerald) Monahan, Judge (James) Hazel and City Attorney Joel Stern, I believe our funding provides a solid level of support for these critical functions."

The budget has good news and bad news for employees.

For the third year, it does not provide a pay increase or cost of living adjustment.

"With loss of overtime pay and withholdings for retirement, most of our employees have gone backward in their take-home pay," Hoffman said.

"Compounding that, our health-care insurance provider increased its rates. To partially offset that, we'll be asking employees to contribute to their own coverage."

The good news is, the budget avoids layoffs, salary reductions and furloughs. Hoffman asked the council to consider giving employees an extra five days off in lieu of a pay increase.

Hoffman said the roads in Apache Junction are slowly declining. "I believe in the near-term that we need to continue our pay-as-you-go approach with road maintenance until the revenue picture has stabilized," Hoffman said. "When it has stabilized, please anticipate that I will come back to your with a recommendation that we substantially increase our road maintenance as made possible through the issuance of a street bond."

As for maintenance, Hoffman is proposing:

- replacement of the police department air conditioning

system;

- the purchase rather than continued leasing of our phone system
- replacement of four servers and two routers
- repairs to the police department roof
- installation of lights for the west library parking lot; and
- the replacement of four PD Crown Victoria patrol cars, all of which will like achieve or surpass 150,000 miles

Hoffman gave kudos to the grants department—Roger Hacker and Heather Patel. In closing, Hoffman said the City has been asked to contribute \$5,000 to Superstition Vistas.

"Superstition Vistas refers to the broad-scale visioning and planning for the 275 square miles of State Land south and east of Apache Junction," Hoffman said.

"Some of this area is in Apache Junction's growth corridor and it is four that reason that we've partnered in the project for the last several years. Upcoming will be translating that work into a planning document by the State Land Department. The step after that will be to take that planning document to the County and seek an update to their general plan.

We've been asked for \$5,000 to support the remaining efforts. It is not in this draft balanced budget, but if directed to include, I will do so."

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