

Sierra Vista City Council
Work Session Minutes
February 10, 2015

Council Member Huisking called the work session to order at 4:05 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 1011 N. Coronado Drive, Sierra Vista, Arizona.

Present:

Mayor Rick Mueller – absent
Mayor Pro Tem Bob Blanchard - present
Council Member Alesia Ash - present
Council Member Gwen Calhoun - present
Council Member Rachel Gray – present
Council Member Hank Huisking - present
Council Member Craig Mount – present

Others present:

Mary Jacobs, Assistant City Manager
Judy Hector, PIO
Pam Weir, Management Analyst
Daryl Copp, Commander, Police Department
Brain Jones, Battalion Chief Jones, Fire Department
Jill Adams, City Clerk

1. Presentation and discussion:

- A. Discussion of City Manager Staff Meeting Minutes – There was no discussion.
- B. Report on Recent Trips, Meetings and Future Meetings

Council Member Huisking reported that Mayor Mueller absence is due to the fact that he and Mr. Potucek are in Washington DC to promote the City and Fort Huachuca.

Council Member Huisking announced that four of the Council Members will be attending the National League of Cities Conference.

Council Member Gray noted that the Council Meeting for February 26th has been cancelled.

C. Board and Commission Liaison Update

Council Member Calhoun announced the March 7th Cultural Heritage Fair at the Buena High School.

Council Member Gray stated that there will be an upcoming vacancy on the Airport Commission and announced that the proposed Development Code Amendments to Articles 151.02, Definitions, 151.10, Sign Regulations, and 151.11, Outdoor Light Control will be discussed at the March 3, 2015 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting. Ms. Jacobs announced that there will be a Council work session to discuss the proposed Development Code Amendments on March 24, 2015.

Council Member Mount stated that the Library Advisory Commission meeting time conflicts with the Council meeting and therefore the Commission is looking at changing its meeting

time; and announced that the Industrial Development Authority Meeting will be held at City Hall on February 25, 2015.

Council Member Huisking reported on the Tourism Partners Meeting held at the Holiday Inn.

Council Member Ash announced that the Arts & Humanities Commission and the Cochise College Art Department have partnered up to host the area's first-ever Youth Art Festival at the Cochise College Sierra Vista campus on February 28, 2015.

Council Member Huisking stated the students from Radabeul will be travelling to Cananea and have requested a visit to the Grand Canyon during the month of April.

Council Member Huisking reminded Council Members that the Commission presentations will commence in April.

Council Member Calhoun reported on the Wellness Community Meeting.

D. Future Discussion Items and Council Requests

Council Member Mount stated that he would like to hold discussion on the creation of an Economic Development Commission before the start of the strategic planning. Ms. Jacobs stated that there is a potential special work session planned for the week of March 16, 2015.

Council Member Mount asked to see the Citizens Advisory Commission's (CAC) Communication Plan before it goes out to the community. Council Member Calhoun concurred. Ms. Jacobs stated that staff is sharing with the CAC on February 25th a conceptual community plan and then based on their input; staff will be able to finalize it. Council will be informed every step of the way. The CAC has not yet decided what to ask the public.

Council Member Ash asked if Council can expand upon and touch on other forms of outreach, a task force and include other options when the topic of the Economic Development Commission is up for discussion. Ms. Jacobs stated that she can make it broader and the timing is right as she did discuss this with Ms. McFarland. Ms. McFarland will have recommendations and this will be the first opportunity that Council will have in terms of those next steps in economic development.

Council Member Calhoun asked about identifying objectives. Ms. Jacobs stated that the Economic Development Manager will be looking a tactics plan of how to implement what Council wants to accomplish and prioritize:

- What can be done first;
- What should be focused on first; and
- Where can we see the greatest impact immediately?

Council Member Huisking asked for:

- Update on Fort Huachuca's gate closures and realignment because there is real concern from west end business owners; and
- Background information on the pros and cons on keeping the cove open.

Ms. Jacobs stated that the Fort has not finalized their plans completely on the gate closures but once they have, the information will be provided to Council and the issues have been communicated to the Fort as well and they are working on mitigating those concerns.

Council Member Calhoun requested an update on the youth center.

Council Member Ash stated that there is no rush but would like to see something more formal than a meeting with the education partners, i.e., school board, Cochise College, University of Arizona, Sierra Vista, and First Things First to come together and discuss strategic priorities because in the last plan education was heavily linked to economic development. Council Member Mount agreed and stated that education is important.

E. Update on Fire Department's Community Assistance Response and Education (CARE) Program

Ms. Jacobs stated that the following items on the agenda are for an update as both are related to the Strategic Plan. The Police Department and Fire Department are embarking on these programs that ultimately help the community. The CARE Program is innovative and exciting opportunity in the works to try and reduce the impacts to the City's department and the hospital, a continuum of care.

Battalion Chief Jones stated that the Department is looking into a community paramedic. The Fire Department in the past has done a wonderful job in preventing fires; but have not done a good job in doing EMS prevention and this is part of that process as 85% what the Department does is EMS.

The program is a way for the Department to get out and educate the public as well as the Department on a better quality of life for the community.

Chief Jones provided the following objectives:

- Define community paramedic
- Define intent of program (why)
- Define how the program works
- Define what customers will see
- Evaluation
- Future
- Our Unit
- Conclusion

Define community paramedic - A community paramedic (cp) is a licensed or certified paramedic intended to be a provider of public health services to the elderly, underserved and chronic condition-patient populations. The Department's paramedic will provide care as an extension of a physician, while acting as the patient's advocate to treat, educate and connect them to a variety of beneficial social services outside the emergency department or hospital.

The key word of that definition is chronic and chronic problems are something that the Department does not currently deal with. The Department currently deals with the emergencies which are acute problems; therefore, the Department goes to the resident's home upon the 911 call, treats and leave. The program will allow the Department in conjunction with the community partners to go and spend time with the

patients after they are discharged from the hospital and educate them about the disease process that they may have and they do not know how to treat.

Chief Jones stated that the program will allow them to go into people's homes and educate them on their disease process which in turn will increase their quality of life.

Ms. Jacobs added that the number of calls received will be reduced and explained that currently the Department can pinpoint the homes where they are called out five to seven times per month. If the individuals are not transported then there is no cost recovery.

Intent (goal) of program – Why, how and what the Department is doing defines the program better. The Department is doing this to empower, educate, inform, decrease as Ms. Jacobs has explained, mobilize the community with partnerships; and increase the quality of life.

The Department is going to empower the people that they are treating to know what their problem is and be able to treat without the Department and educate them on how to do that as well as the paramedics. The education component will allow the paramedics to refresh their memories on why they do what they do. The people will be informed on the information that they need and decrease re-admittance to the hospital, to the Emergency Department and decrease the call volume that the Fire Department currently has.

The community partnerships that the Department is going to get involved with are the Sierra Vista Regional Health Center and Cochise College.

How program works – The Department will be getting a police interceptor vehicle, budgeted and possibly already bought, that is not going to look like a police car and fit to meet the Department's needs. The equipment will allow a single person to go out to the residences to meet, talk and explain to them the process to get them on the road to recovery.

The Department's personnel will be operating the vehicle and the education component is the key point for the Fire Department. The hospital will educate the paramedics more in depth on the disease processes that in turn will allow the paramedics to educate the people that they go out and treat.

The areas of service have not been singled out yet as the Department wants to start the program out small and grow it. Some of the areas being looked at are patients with congestive heart failure, miocardic infractions, pneumonia, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma. The program will be beneficial with the help from the community partnerships being established.

It has not been defined specifically how the program will work on a daily basis; but the Department is looking at assigning a paramedic who has a deeper knowledge base and more understanding of the disease processes to go to the homes. The paramedic would see a specific amount of patients per month through weekly visits approximately

one hour depending on what is going on during that day. These patients will initially be referred to the Department by the hospital. Also a standard assessment form would be provided to the patient's personal care physicians (PSP) and the hospital's case manager. The PCP likes this because the less time that they see someone in their office, their reimbursement is better.

Evaluation - a key point because with the data that is collected through the forms, the hospital data to track re-admittance to both the Emergency Department and inpatient, feedback through surveys and also national trends the Fire Department will be able to establish what is good for the system and what areas need to be focused on in order to make the program effective and beneficial.

The Sierra Vista Fire Department is not the innovators of the program. The program has been going on for awhile in other areas, i.e., Rio Rico, Mesa Fire, and Golden Ranch. All of them are doing specific needs for their area and the Sierra Vista Fire Department is starting out small so that the City's specific needs can be met.

Chief Jones stated that the future of the program is as big as the Department envisions it; but they want to start out small and get it growing right in order to make sure that it is beneficial for all. The unit is going to be called Community Assistance Response Education (CARE) Unit and those four go without speaking. It is about the community, assistance, response and limiting responses, and educating the public, patients and community partners as well as the Department.

Through the specific yet dynamic program, the Department will be able to empower, inform, and educate not only the customers but the personnel. In doing so strengthening the link with the community partnerships ensuring an all encompassing approach to wellness.

In response to Council Member Gray, Chief Jones stated that the kickoff date is July 1st and it will include customers within the Fry Fire Department as well because the customers will be based on the hospitals discharged.

Council Member Calhoun thanked Chief Jones for the presentation and commented that it is good to hear ahead of time what is in the works.

Council Member Calhoun asked how the hospital will educate the paramedics. Chief Jones explained that it is about getting information that they are not privy to that the hospital gives out to a patient that is being discharged.

In response to Council Member Calhoun, Chief Jones stated that there will be a form that states that the discharged would like to be involved in the program that will give the Department consent into the residences and there are no budgetary concerns that he is aware of.

Council Member Mount asked about the cost of the program. Ms. Jacobs stated that at this point, existing staff would be utilized as it is an opportunity for some of the Department's light duty paramedics since they cannot be on a fire service crew. The

City will assess how it goes with the staff levels that the City currently has and there may be because of the Affordable Care Act, some opportunities for billing in the future in which case, the cost to bill may cover any additional expenses that may occur.

The Fire Department is working it into the existing budget. Although some of the equipment in the vehicle was budgeted, there will be limited amount of supplies. The plan is to try out the program, experiment and then depending on the demand, cost recovery and perhaps some other partners out there, it is entirely possible that the program will be successful and the hospital may pay the City due to the cost of re-admitting people.

Council Member Mount asked about insurance and liability issues. Ms. Jacobs stated that the City's insurance covers it and the paramedics will not be given additional abilities to diagnose. If they find that someone clearly not doing well needs to be hospitalized, then they would call for a transport to the hospital. The paramedics are not allowed by their license to do any diagnoses; therefore, the City covers that and they are very well trained and they know where that line is drawn.

Council Member Ash asked if there is billing with the program. Ms. Jacobs stated that not yet; but there may be some opportunity in the future.

Council Member Mount asked about contact ratio and the level of service before the decision is made to grow the program. Chief Jones explained that the data will drive that. The Department will also have regular staff in addition the light duty personnel.

Council Member Mount that there are two problems with that methodology:

- Expensive resource to have
 - o light duty personnel providing service to three to four people at any given time; and
 - o One paramedic providing service to 5,000 individual.
- Great cause;
- Considerable risk without details.

Council Member Mount asked if the idea of the program could be looked at by the Economic Development Manager to see if there is a private company that is willing to do this and create some jobs. Ms. Jacobs stated that it is not that the City can't bill; but when the City bills, it is typically to the health insurance and right now there is no health insurance that will reimburse for this service. She would rather not bill the individual person; staff is testing the waters to grow into this in order to see what is appropriate for the community. The City will not jump into this fast because staff wants to see how many can be reasonably be serviced given the existing staff. However, if the program grows, it is possible that there will be revenues to cover the cost.

Council Member Huisking asked about the recommended length of the program and when will there be enough data to be able to assess where staff will be going with it. Chief Jones stated that he believes that the program could be assessed in six months and see where it is going and decide whether to move forward or slow down.

Council Member Huisking asked if the same paramedic would be visiting the people and thereby building a relationship. Chief Jones stated that the Department is hoping that it will be the same paramedic all of the time and that is part of the process. Staff is in the early stages of getting the program going and will work out all of those kinks.

Council Member Gray stated that she appreciates Council Member Mount's concerns and stated that her take on the program is that it is really a pilot program. In her opinion, the only way to know is to do it and see where to go with it from there.

Council Member Mount asked for the data from other communities and asked how Council will know how those communities did and stated that the City does not have to jump into the middle of a pilot test unless Council has that data.

Council Member Gray stated that Council has to be careful that other communities are not driving the City as Council knows its city's needs. Mesa is one of the communities that the City models itself after; but Mesa is not Sierra Vista. Data helps but this is a person to person program and she believes that the only way to measure it is with a human to human touch which is what the program calls for. Ms. Jacobs stated that the program is being developed based off the Strategic Plan; it was the Council that said they wanted to explore this. This has been in the works, this is the second year and there is data available.

Council Member Calhoun commented that it would be helpful when there are presentations that staff refer it to the Strategic Plan as part of the presentation.

Council Member Ash stated that it is important for an update of the program to make sure that it is fiscally sound and applauds Council for being forward thinking because this is the way healthcare is going. Having studied Health Policy, she knows that healthcare does not want to continue billing for service after service. They want to decrease the amount of contact a patient has with doctor.

F. Update on Implementation of the City's Civilian Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Ms. Jacobs stated that Commander Copp has been overseeing the City's Civilian Emergency Response Team (CERT). This is an exciting opportunity because there have been a few major emergencies in the community. It is the City's responsibility to be ready when an emergency happens and there have been requests from the public to help out and the City's welcomes the public's assistance; but there is significant liability issues associated with members of the public volunteering. The CERT team is a national program that gets rolled out that is consistent.

Commander Copp reported that the program was brought to the Police Department's attention in late 2013, a strategic objective of the Council. The Department was able to put together two classes in 2014. The first one was a basic class where the Department was able to get together twenty citizens, most of which were patrol volunteers, police and fire department personnel. The next goal was to put together an instructor class and with the Arizona Department of Emergency Management's

personnel assistance, the Department now has five more instructors locally. There are 15 other persons that are statewide and The City was able to develop a network, if ever needed. Beyond the two classes the Department has not been able to move forward because of funding. There is a nominal expense in putting the classes together and the biggest expense is outfitting someone with the bag that contains equipment needed, which costs \$65 to \$70. Money was borrowed from the County's Emergency Manager from some grants that he had in order to put on the first two classes that were held.

Commander Copp stated that at this point in time he is working with the County's Emergency Manager again to put on another class. This class will be the Sheriff's Assist Team along with community members.

Commander Copp stated that he has not been able to keep the program strictly in Sierra Vista because he has been working with the County's Emergency Manager, he has had to make into a program that involves County and City personnel; but all of these people are willing to respond to wherever the emergency is.

The CERT Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in:

- Basic disaster response skills;
- Fire safety;
- Light search and rescue;
- Team organization;
- Disaster medical operations; and
- Helping survivors cope.

This is all bound on natural disasters or manmade events of epic proportion. These kinds of disasters would tax the immediate resources to the point that they would not be able to respond to all of the people needing them. People having to fend for themselves for several days before emergency personnel could respond, i.e., a massive earthquake.

Research has been conducted which states that that only 50% of the public is aware of the alerts and warning systems that are used, 70% expect a neighbor or co-worker to help them out and 30% of people in the community depend on police and fire personnel to help them in an emergency as they have not prepared at all to fend for themselves in those types of situations. The people's main focus that are on the CERT Program is, to be able to take care of themselves and immediate family; because, if everyone could take care of themselves for 72 hours and not tax the fire and police system, then that gives the City time to recover and bring in additional resources in order to provide that kind of assistance.

With the CERT Program is all starts at home:

- Can people evaluate their situation;
- Do they have a disaster plan in place;
- Do they have the supplies and a disaster kit readily available;
- Do they have shelter; and

- Can they evacuate?

There are other aspects of the program. Basically, if one is in a position to take of her or himself, then they are in the position to help others. The CERT members are taught that they have pre-destination area to meet so that they can then form a team and they can go out in these areas and help mitigate certain situations. The mantra for the program is the greatest good for greatest number. It does sound bad that if a team member comes across an individual that needs CPR, they do not do that as they are not trained to do that. They are trained to tag that person as dead or dying and move on. It does not do any good; if the member stops at the first person they meet and never move on from there.

The program is designed to go out in the community and enter lightly damaged structures only or not damaged at all, search those homes for potential victims and either move them to a safe area or shelter them in the place, and move on. However, the team must mark the structure so that when emergency services arrive, they will know what to expect in that residence.

The CERT Program could be used in other capabilities, i.e., at City public events by setting up a First Aid Station which would free up fire department personnel; could train members in traffic control and other ways to utilize the program so that there is minimal cost.

Council Member Gray asked how many participants were in the first class. Commander Copp stated that there were twenty and all are not certified.

Council Member Huisling asked how many participants from the first class are now training instructors. Commander Copp stated that there were five and part of that first class was to identify those people that could become instructors and they either work for the fire department, police department or they are patrol volunteers.

In response to Council Member Huisling, Commander Copp stated that the class is not being funded by the City and he has been looking for grant funding which is what was used originally. A bag is \$75 and some individuals are willing to pay that but there are some that are not willing to pay that. Nationally the program has been run by having the class and then providing the bag at the end of the class. Currently, Command Copp has 40 complete kits. Then there are about 100 other bags that are very basic with only 1/3 of the necessary items. The Department has talked about providing those bags to the participants along with a list of other items that the Team thinks should be in there and have them go about procuring those items themselves.

If funding permits it, it would be nice to provide the bags and if does not, then the Team needs to do the best that they can do with what they have and move on.

Council Member Calhoun commented that the program is outstanding as she keeps having flashbacks of the earthquake in San Francisco and how emergency vehicles could not even get through, let alone be there to help. Programs such as this should be available in the community and she believes that people would be willing to buy the

bags. The other bags could be given to folks who have the desire to be a part of the team but do not have the money for the bag. She also stated that she would not like to hold up the program because there may not be any funds for it.

Commander Copp stated that it would be nice for all participants to have the same bag because it contains items that identify the team leaders.

Council Member asked about the number of bags that are complete. Commander Copp stated that there are forty on hand and the other 20 are with the trained individuals. In inventory there are about 100 bags.

G. Legislative Update

Ms. Jacobs stated that the Governor has been presented with the TPT modification regarding construction sales tax which is expected to be signed.

There are a few bills that the City and League are concerned about:

- Residential rental tax

Ms. Jacobs explained that the State would essentially be taking away from local government the control whether to charge or not. The League is working hard on opposing that and it actually has about a \$90 Million impact on a statewide basis with all of the cities and towns across the state. For Sierra Vista it would be about a \$350,000 because it just applies to residential and not commercial real property rental. The bill is in the House Committee and it did pass out of the Senate. There is a companion bill in the House and she will keep Council updated.

- The eliminating of the local government's ability to specify vegetation or restrict vegetation in any way on development, both residential and commercial.

Ms. Jacobs explained that the City would be concerned with it because the City has a plant list that is required for anything that is going to be done in the public right of way because the City has figured out what works, what has the lowest maintenance plus the low water usage is important in the Community. If the bill were to pass, the City would not be able to restrict grass to be grown as front lawns. Working through Triadvocates, the City has expressed opposition to it because of the water conservation.

- Limiting the fire department on how they control fire access roads;
- Expanding the availability of fireworks adjacent to wild land urban interface.

Ms. Jacobs stated that she has been working with the Fire Department. There is a strike all amendment that allows the use of fireworks within 100 feet of certain municipal land preserves, whereas currently the community can have some restrictions.

- Solid Waste bill is moving forward in the Senate and there may be some opportunities to amend it.

Ms. Jacobs stated that she is concerned with the bill; but there are enough municipalities in the state that are opposing it as well and the League is doing all they can to mitigate.

- Senate concurrent resolutions:

- Expressing support for military bases; and
- Congress exempt military facilities from endangered Species Act.

Ms. Jacobs stated that they are moving forward, both good bills and sponsored by Senator Griffin who understands the importance of local military installations.

Council Member Mount asked who directs Triadvocates on what to support or not. Ms. Jacobs explained that she does as long as the positions are consistent with the Council's legislative agenda. If Council's legislative agenda is silent, then Triadvocates is silent on the bill; but if it is clear that the policy direction of the Council is being met with local control and a number of other things that are in Council's legislative agenda, and then they move on.

Ms. Jacobs further explained that things happen quickly at the state legislature and therefore, it is not possible to have Council enact something because by the time staff bring something forward and it is posted, the bill could have changed three times with two strike everything amendments.

Council Member Mount stated that he understands why she is making the decisions; but expressed his concern that as Council Member, they do not get it both ways and it is more of a philosophical argument. Council cannot say that they want the control of what comes in and out of Sierra Vista as far as how Council controls the City and the policies that get made because Council does not want the State doing it; but at the same time, he does not recall Council ever having a vote on whether or not they should object to anyone of the bills coming through.

Council Member Gray stated that at the update by Triadvocates, the Mayor, staff as well as Triadvocates were looking for a consensus. The majority of Council seemed to consent to the bills discussed and those are going forward. Council is not actually doing a vote but it is a consensus.

Council Member Mount stated that he recalls the discussion taking place.

Council Member Gray explained that there were a few things that were agreed upon and those that they disagreed on; but Triadvocates, the Mayor and staff are looking at the majority of Council, the tone of Council and where it is headed.

Council Member Huisking added that it is also policy that is already in place and so if there are bills, i.e., the landscaping one that goes against what the City has already put in place and are working very well, it is not something that requires a Council vote. It is a given interpretation.

Council Member Gray stated that it is in the general plan and ordinances; therefore Council opposes it.

Council Member Mount stated that he is just going back to the very first work session that they held as a group when they were sworn on. One of the key things brought up in the mini session was, "is Council setting policy or not?" When Council is not, they are not. However, he understands; but he is just coming back to it to make sure that Council continue to go back to that original priority that Council already said and that they are at least acknowledging what is going on.

Council Member Ash asked Council Member Mount for an alternative method to go through legislation.

Council Member Mount stated that he would like to know what Council's position is before giving it to Triadvocates.

Council Member Gray stated that she does not see a problem with that but they do happen very quickly. She keeps a very close eye on the Arizona League of Cities website and looks at the bills that are going through. There have been times when she is opposed to a bill, i.e., the super bowl bill and so she had time to bring it to Council for a resolution that was sent off to the State that said that Sierra Vista did not support the bill. If Council Members feel that this is something that they need to do, it is a purgative.

Council Member Ash stated that it is her assumption that it is impossible to expect a staff member to track each piece of legislation that affects the City can easily be at least a part time job. Therefore, she is not sure how Council could expect anybody on staff to track unless a part time person is hired. In addition to that, if there comes a time, when Council finds that policy that has been set by the Council is not being implemented correctly by Mr. Potucek or Ms. Jacobs, Council should bring it up at a Council Meeting.

Council Member Huisking reminded everyone that the League of Cities has a new format for bringing things that Council may think are important enough to the League of Cities other than going through the channels. With the Council and staff, one can ask to be on one of five committees that deal with the number of different areas. She also commented that she is not aware of any Council Member serving on any of the five committees. Council Member Gray stated that she is working on that.

Council Member Huisking stated that it is one avenue available to further obtain knowledge of what is going on and how Sierra Vista is being represented.

Council Member Mount stated that he is fully aware of the laws out there; but his concern is that the League of Cities is not an elected body and Council is. If staff is making decisions up to the League of Cities and then lobbying then, the first thing that he is asking is, what are Council's positions?

Mayor Pro Tem Blanchard commented that it used to be like that in the past.

Council Member Huisking stated that there used to be a list of things that Council advocated for and other cities would have to partner with Sierra Vista in order to make any progress to even get it heard. Now there is a new format for that and there is a list of legislative priorities that have already been set.

Ms. Jacobs stated that there is a policy statement on the part of the Council. Council has already set policy by the Council's policy statement. Policy is set with the Strategic Plan; but how that policy gets accomplished has been the responsibility of the city manager. Council can change that policy any time. The League of Cities asks for input but they take their position whether the City is with them or not. They do it based on the majority of interest across cities across the state. Sierra Vista has a small voice on things that are very much affecting the City directly and maybe a dozen bills, she would specifically call out and say these are pretty significant otherwise, staff allows the League to proceed. This is why the City pays a membership fee.

There are bills that affect the City, i.e., the residential solid waste for the multi-family. It affects the City's revenues and the ability to provide that service. The bill on the real property rental

tax also affects the City and Council discussed that and provided a consensus of direction. The rest of the bills are all consistent.

Ms. Jacobs explained that she receives an update from Triadvocates maybe twice a week and they use the legislative policy of the Council. Her concern with having to run all of her decisions by Council and poll each member is that she can't do her job. Council is not making a policy, it is an opinion on a piece of legislation that will affect the City; but there are some communities that refuse to take a position unless it comes before the Council; but their voice has been neutered because they can't turn things around fast enough.

Council Member Mount stated that this does not help when the City has the Mayor and City Manager in a newspaper article talking about how they are looking for somebody else other than Triadvocates to represent the City. When working through the process, he gets the regular policy stuff and he is not trying to create more bureaucracy; but there are things that will come up, the CAC has not come back yet, and affect the City budgetary. He does not want the City to be back against the wall with a policy that the City backed through the state or positions that do not give flexibility locally. He agrees to some extent but either the Council is making the policy or not.

Council Member Gray stated that Council is making the policy and therefore the staff knows what Council's position is. Triadvocates is not looking for a replacement for state policy it is just the federal concerning Fort Huachuca as they are not strong on federal issues. Triadvocates is helping the City until the City finds someone that is strong on federal issues.

Ms. Jacobs clarified that when the contract was cancelled with Capital Strategies, Triadvocates jumped in this interim period and it is expenditure in addition to what the City is paying for the state legislative work. The City is not looking on terminating the contract with on state legislative activity as they have done a good job.

Council Member Ash stated that she does not necessarily disagree with Council Member Mount and asked him how Council would go about it. If he would like to see the City take a stronger stance on an issue, there are things that Council members can do individually, i.e., advocating personally as a member of the public and not wearing the City Council official title. If there is a piece of legislation that he feels should be discussed, then Council should do that and it is worth having the discussion; however, it is the process.

Council Member Mount stated that there are state representatives here and regardless of how one may feel about them, when was the last time that staff or Council reached out to them to say we don't want this or we do.

Council Member Ash stated that each Council Member has a right to do that individually. Council Member Mount stated that he would table all of his comments at this point.

Council Member Huisking stated that a suggestion has been made to invite the state representatives to a town hall or a discussion about specific legislative items that are of interest to Council just to hear from them how they feel about them one way or another. This is something worthwhile.

2. Adjourn

Council Member Huisking adjourned the work session at 5:30 p.m.

Council Member Henrietta "Hank" Huisking

Minutes prepared by:

Attest:

Maria G. Marsh, Deputy City Clerk

Jill Adams, City Clerk