



MINUTES OF WORK SESSION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF YOUNGTOWN, AZ

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2013, TOWN CLUBHOUSE, 12033 CLUBHOUSE SQUARE

1. **Call to Order** Mayor LeVault called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:** Council present: Mayor Michael LeVault, Vice Mayor Jacob Duran, Councilmembers Margaret Chittenden, Shirley Gustafson, Susan MacKay and Judy Johnson. Absent: Councilmember Dorena Mello,
Staff present: Town Manager Lloyce Robinson, Town Attorney Trisha Stuhan, Town Engineer Grant Anderson, Court Administrator Virginia Bermudez and Clerk/Treasurer Diane Cordova.
3. **Business**
 - A. **Presentation and Discussion Re: Northwest Valley Local Transit System Study (PowerPoint attached)**

Mayor LeVault

 - The metropolitan Phoenix area has many transportation options, however as one travels down west from Glendale and Peoria, El Mirage, Sun City and Surprise, the transit service becomes very limited; the existing transit service is presently limited to the Northwest Valley.

Town Manager Robinson

 - I introduce Marc Pearsall and Jose Perez who are here to discuss and answer questions on the Northwest Valley Transit study.

Marc Pearsall, Transit Planner with the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG)

 - Thank you Mayor LeVault for the brief overview, which is correct. As one travels away beyond Glendale there is limited public transportation.
 - In 2010 Sun City Transit Services folded and they contacted Valley Metro and MAG for a fixed-route transit services known as "Dial-a-Ride" (DAR) program, which served Sun City and Sun City West. These services were absorbed by Valley Metro in 2011. The City of Peoria operates its own DAR service within city limits. The City of Surprise also operated its own DAR service, although this service was shifted to Valley Metro in October 2012 as a cost-cutting measure.
 - A year into it now, we've held 23 public meetings. MAG hired Moore & Associates, Inc. to finalize a draft report on the findings of a transit study.

Jose Perez, Moore & Associates, Inc.

 - The report study was developed by public involvement. Twenty community workshops at locations throughout the Northwest Valley as well as surveys distributed via mail, internet and at community workshops. A total of 2,600 surveys were collected.
 - The report study was tasked to recommend specific public transit that would enhance resident mobility within individual communities while also identify opportunities for synergy among key transit nodes.
 - Phased implementation of this study is from present to 5 years, 5 to 10 years and 10 years or more.

Mayor LeVault

 - There is word out that Surprise and El Mirage want to own transportation buses, how true is that?

Marc Pearsall

 - That is not correct. They desire to own their own fleet and/or lease a fleet. Valley Metro owns the buses which are purchased by federal monies. It is a long term desire to fund buses locally. We have funding for capital, operations and to purchase new fleets.

Grant Anderson, Town Engineer

 - In the key findings, there is a desire transit access to local shopping and medical needs within the Sun City Shopping Centers. I would say that 50% of residents don't travel downtown, they are intercity travelers. The intergovernmental agreement implements for circulators to address intra-community travel. This proves to be very beneficial for Youngtown; a great economic driver.

Resident Comment

June Miller

- Great idea for transit to come to Sun City, however, where is Youngtown on this map?
- How long before this transit service takes place?

Workshop recessed at 5:57 p.m. to view display maps of Northwest Valley Local Transit System Study provided by Maricopa Association of Government.

Workshop resumed open discussion at 6:08 p.m.

Mayor LeVault

- What is the next step for us as the Town?
- This is very critical for the Northwest Valley as many depend on mass transit.
- How will it be funded?

Marc Pearsall, Transit Planner with the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG)

- The transit report will be completed for public review. It will also go through a MAG committee process. We are also available to come back for another workshop session.
- There is a 9 million budget spread out for 5 years; we obtain funds through LTAF – Local transportation Assistance Fund. There is also a recommendation of having a .02 tenth and/or a .01 tenth sales tax. The sales tax would generate 8 to 10 million over a 10 year period.

Grant Anderson, Town Engineer

- Mayor you will have the report available through the regional council meetings that you attend. The next step for Youngtown will be implementation of bike paths and routes which are beneficial for citizens.

Jose Perez, Moore & Associates, Inc.

- The long term phased implementation is 10 years.

Mayor LeVault

- I and six other municipal officials set the vision for Compass – Corridor Optimization and Access Management Plan and System Study. I'm also part of the executive committee at MAG and am available to help in any way.

Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn – Councilmember Chittenden

Second – Vice Mayor Duran

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.



Michael LeVault, Mayor

Attest:



Diane Cordova, Town Clerk

Minutes approved at June 6, 2013 regular meeting