



Minutes City Council Issue Review Session May 7, 2009

Minutes of the Tempe City Council Issue Review Session held on Thursday, May 7, 2009, 6:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Mayor Hugh Hallman
Vice Mayor Shana Ellis
Councilmember P. Ben Arredondo
Councilmember Mark W. Mitchell
Councilmember Joel Navarro
Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian
Councilmember Corey D. Woods

Mayor Hallman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Call to the Audience

July 4th Transit Service

INFORMATIONAL BACKGROUND available in City Clerk's Office.

DISCUSSION – Presenters: Public Works Manager Glenn Kephart; Deputy Public Works Manager Carlos de Leon

Glenn Kephart summarized that, similar to what has been done for the past eight years, the City will provide free bus service all day on the Fourth of July to assist people getting to and from the event. This year, staff proposes to continue to provide that free bus service. Because light rail is a regional facility, however, staff does not have authority to provide light rail as a free service.

Mayor Hallman clarified that everything provided in the past will remain, but light rail will not be free.

Carlos de Leon summarized that most of the bus routes will operate on a 15-minute schedule until midnight.

- For those taking the free buses to the event, the main drop-off and pick-up point will be at the Transportation Center. Due to the street restrictions related to the event, some routes will be detoured to the light rail stations.
- Park-and-ride lots are available at Tempe Marketplace, the Tempe Sports Complex (Hardy just north of Warner), the Library complex (Southern and Rural), and Arizona Mills Mall.
- The rail service will have regular fares and staff encourages riders to purchase the all-day pass. Fares will be

increasing during that time frame so an all-day pass will be \$3.50, and a discounted pass will be \$1.75 (for youth, seniors, and disabled). The Tempe Youth Transit Pass does allow riders on the light rail. Light rail will run every 15 minutes until midnight.

- Rail park-and-rides are located along Apache Boulevard primarily, with 700 spaces at the 101, 300 spaces at McClintock, and 190 spaces at Dorsey Lane.
- Staff will communicate information to the public through a variety of media, including the water bill, website, and press releases, with information on the tickets as well. Information will also be available at www.tempe.gov, www.ValleyMetro.org, or by calling the Tempe Transit Store at 480-858-2350.
- The current Youth Transit Pass will expire on June 30th, so it is important to sign up for youth transit passes for the upcoming fiscal year at the Transportation Center next week and at the Library on May 30 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. An ID, birth certificate and proof of Tempe residency is required.

Mayor Hallman requested that Shelley Hearn and Nikki Ripley make sure that this information is provided to the newspapers.

Councilmember Mitchell suggested having fliers at the Kid Zone locations, as well as contacting the schools.

Councilmember Shekerjian asked for the age parameters for the Youth Transit Pass.

Mr. de Leon responded that it is ages 6 to 18.

Councilmember Shekerjian asked about the light rail service on the 4th. Previously, Council had discussed that during special events the light rail schedule should be extended.

Mr. Kephart responded that there is a proposal before the board next week to offer weekend service to 2 a.m. beginning July 1st of this year. That issue will be discussed at the board meeting next week.

Mayor Hallman added that the marginal cost is less than first thought, so it might be something the board will support. Maybe the board should consider changing that for weekends and holidays.

Vice Mayor Ellis clarified that children under age 6 are free.

Mr. de Leon agreed.

Vice Mayor Ellis reminded citizens that the youth need to be present when the pass is requested because a photo will be taken.

Councilmember Arredondo added that there is a little reduction for seniors but he noted that it wasn't listed on the slides.

Mr. de Leon responded that seniors are included in the discount pass rate at \$1.75.

Mayor Hallman requested that staff makes sure that all information specifies qualifications. He also agreed that with school just about out, staff should make sure they get the information to all the Tempe and Kyrene elementary schools and the Tempe High School District. He asked that staff return to a future meeting to pursue changing that to include any child who attends a Tempe school.

CONSENSUS

Staff was directed to:

- Get message out to the newspapers
- Get message out to Tempe schools re: youth transit pass
- Let public know who qualifies for discount rate: youth, seniors, disabled
- Return to a future IRS meeting to discuss changing youth transit pass to include any child who attends a Tempe school.

Follow-up Responsibility: Glenn Kephart, Carlos de Leon

Flu Update

INFORMATIONAL BACKGROUND available in City Clerk's Office.

DISCUSSION – Presenters: Fire Chief Cliff Jones; EMS Coordinator Mike Baros; Julie Sernopolous of the Maricopa County Department of Public Health

Fire Chief Cliff Jones summarized that the purpose tonight is to provide an overview of the steps taken in regard to the H1N1 flu. There is a City Emergency Operations Plan and that plan contains a section on pandemics. The City also has an intranet site for employees to access information on a number of topics, including H1N1, and the site is updated daily. Staff has monitored this situation from the outset with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health and this issue has been reviewed with Jim Cobin from the City's Information Technology Department who is the lead in the City's Continuity of Operations planning group. Staff has communicated with the City's ambulance service provider, Professional Medical Transport, and Tempe St. Luke's Hospital, the City's medical services base station, in terms of their contingency planning. Staff is in constant contact with all Valley fire agencies on this issue. The primary agency for information and guidance on this subject is the Maricopa County Department of Public Health headed by Dr. Bob England.

Mike Baros provided an overview. It is his responsibility to update the information on the employee's website. Typically, the website contains general information on how to prevent the spread of this novel H1N1 virus, and it provides information for responders on the appropriate personal protective equipment. There is also a link for the Department of Public Health.

Julie Sernopolous summarized as follows:

- As of 11 a.m. EDT, there have been 35 cases in Maricopa County and 49 cases in the State of Arizona. If a county doesn't already have a case in Arizona, it is only because it is not aware of it yet. In the nation, there are approximately 900 cases, and there have been 2 deaths, with one of those having underlying medical concerns. Mexico has listed 42 deaths.
- The virus is behaving like Influenza A.
- As the flu migrates into the southern hemisphere, it might develop mutations.
- The virus has been isolated and vaccine is being developed. There may be multiple vaccines by fall.
- Of the strategic national stockpile of anti-virals, Arizona has taken 25% of its cache, received it and distributed it.
- Because the behavior of the virus was not severe, the County backed off on school closures on Saturday. The County did speak to the school superintendents on Saturday to get their consensus and understanding and will not be notifying schools of positive confirmed cases unless a cluster at a particular location is identified through their enhanced survey list.
- Through the summer and into the fall the County will distribute a typical standard public message of universal precautions.
- If someone is sick, they are advised to stay home at least until their fever has abated.

- The County is also working with the business community.

Mayor Hallman commended Dr. Bob England for his calm recognition of how to best approach any of these kinds of instances.

Councilmember Arredondo stated that the City is fortunate to have Ms. Sermopolous present tonight to provide this update. He suggested that the Fire Chief write a letter of thanks to Dr. England.

Councilmember Shekerjian clarified that no one gets too concerned with Influenza A and this strain of H1N1 is not very virulent. She asked why there has been so much media hype.

Ms. Sermopolous responded that Influenza A should be taken very seriously. It kills 36,000 people each year but it just doesn't make the news any more. Historically speaking, the 1918 Spanish Flu came in with a very mild, late spring effect and then came back with a vengeance in the fall. This is a novel virus and they are still trying to determine exactly what the numbers mean. The numbers will grow, but given that Influenza A kills 36,000 people a year, the County will watch the numbers and the virus. She suspected, however, the media hype is because we haven't had this in quite awhile.

CONSENSUS

Fire Chief Jones will send a letter of thanks to Dr. Bob England of the Maricopa County Health Department.
Follow-up Responsibility: Fire Chief Jones

Formal Council Agenda Items

None.

Future Agenda Items

Mayor Hallman stated that in getting the process established to place board members for the Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board, he was struck by the low number of applications received. He requested a discussion be agendaized as to how to reach a broader applicant pool. The item should also include a discussion regarding the clause in the ordinance that waives Tempe residency requirements.

Mayor's Announcements/Manager's Announcements

City Manager Charlie Meyer announced that as of May 1, at 5 p.m., there were 149 applicants for the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program. Individuals are allowed one week to rescind their application, and there will be only a few who will rescind their application. The program accomplished exactly what the Council wanted it to accomplish and it will create opportunities for attrition. This is a very positive outcome toward the ultimate goal of not laying off employees.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.