The Irwindale CITY COUNCIL, SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE IRWINDALE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY, AND HOUSING AUTHORITY met in special joint session at the above time and place.

ROLL CALL: Present: Councilmembers Albert F. Ambriz, Julian A. Miranda, H. Manuel Ortiz; Mayor Pro Tem Manuel R. Garcia; Mayor Mark A. Breceda

Also present: Eva Carreon, Interim City Manager / Director of Finance; Fred Galante, City Attorney; Anthony Miranda, Police Chief; William Tam, Director of Public Works/City Engineer; Gus Romo, Director of Community Development; Elvie Balderrama, Human Resources Manager, and Laura Nieto, Deputy City Clerk

SPONTANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS There were no speakers.

STUDY SESSION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 1 FY 2015/16 BUDGET WORKSHOP

INTERIM CITY MANAGER CARREON Interim City Manager Carreon made a PowerPoint presentation pertaining to the budget.

COUNCILMEMBER QUESTIONS Responding to several questions by the Councilmembers, Housing Coordinator Olivares spoke on the pricing for the services provided by BrealT and noted that the company has not increased its rates since 2007 and will not increase its rates for this fiscal year provided the City enters into a two-year contract with them. She added that the Irwindale Chamber of Commerce will also remain at the same rate, provided the City enters into a three-year agreement with them. She added that the Chamber of Commerce will provide the same services to the residents as the previous fiscal year and that the Irwindale Educational Foundation’s Board of Directors has the Chamber of Commerce’s CEO as a member. The decision to discontinue holding the Educational Foundation’s barbecue fundraisers at the MillerCoors facility was made by the Board of Directors. She then spoke on the justification to continue utilizing the services of BrealT and elaborated on the many services they provide to the City.

MAYOR PRO TEM GARCIA Mayor Pro Tem Garcia asked about receiving a settlement from CalPERS, to which Interim City Manager Carreon discussed how CalPERS rates have decreased and how this resulted in savings for the City.
Responding to a comment made by Councilmember Miranda, Interim City Manager Carreon indicated that, as of FY 2015/16, all employees are paying their full share of their portion of CalPERS rates.

Councilmember Ortiz asked about sick leave benefits for Summer Youth employees, to which Interim City Manager Carreon indicated that said employees do not receive this benefit.

Responding to a question by Mayor Breceda, Interim City Manager Carreon indicated that any further improvements to the park will be brought first to the City Council for consideration.

Councilmember Ambriz wondered whether the impact fee study can be completed in-house, to which Director Romo advised that it could not since staff lacks the expertise required to put the study together. Companies such as Wildan have staff who concentrate on these types of studies. He added that Wildan will focus on completing the development impact fee study first due to the need to have them in place for upcoming projects.

Regarding training, Councilmember Ortiz asked whether the ones suggested in the presentation are mandatory or necessary, to which Interim City Manager Carreon noted that staff has only included training which it feels to be crucial and that the amount budgeted will cover all costs associated with the trainings. She noted, however, that some of the trainings that had previously been recommended have been removed.

Director Tam discussed the budget requests of the Public Works Department.

Councilmember Miranda asked whether special mining funds can be used to cover emergency repairs and maintenance of the bridge and traffic signals, to which Director Tam noted that staff attempts to do so whenever possible, but some of the newly added intersections are outside the mining impact area, and said areas cannot be covered by special mining funds.

City Attorney Galante noted that the mining study commissioned by the City in 1999 analyzed the impact on roads and infrastructure that mining trucks would have, and to the extent there is an opportunity to utilize special mining funds, that will be an option.

Councilmember Ortiz spoke on failing intersection signals, to which Director Tam noted that signals which are shared between different governmental entities, such as the one near the intersection of Vincent and Arrow, are maintained by the County. Staff will check into why the signal is failing, though he also noted that there is a plan to improve the signal.
Also, regarding the signal at Cypress and Irwindale, the City is working with the County to determine whether there can be signals with left turn phasing for each direction.

Responding to an additional question by Councilmember Ortiz, Director Tam explained why geotechnical services costs cannot be paid with special mining funds.

COUNCILMEMBER AMBRIZ

Councilmember Ambriz asked whether Athens is responsible for picking up debris on the public right of way, to which Director Tam indicated that Athens is only responsible for street sweeping and whatever is in their line of travel. Any debris along the sidewalk, for example, would be the responsibility of the City to remove. He noted, however, that Athens provides special item pickups upon special requests.

COUNCILMEMBER MIRANDA

Councilmember Miranda asked about how plans are produced, to which Director Tam indicated that staff is currently using an old machine which has since become obsolete.

COUNCILMEMBER ORTIZ

Councilmember Ortiz asked about replacing barbecue grills, to which Director Tam stated that only the most deteriorated grills will be replaced due to their high costs.

COUNCILMEMBER MIRANDA

Councilmember Miranda asked about improving and repairing municipal facilities utilizing certificate of participation bond proceeds, to which Director Tam noted that some repairs have been postponed in order to attend to other, more pressing repairs.

Director Tam then continued with his presentation and discussed the need to have two permanent part-time workers.

COUNCILMEMBER QUESTIONS

Responding to several questions by the Councilmembers, Director Tam explained that 1) payment for the workers would come from mining funds, 2) the four current part time workers would become permanent part time workers, should the Council approve the proposal, 3) medical benefits for these workers have already been calculated into the costs presented to the Council, 4) the workers would not be provided vacation or holiday benefits, 5) staff has constantly found it difficult to find, train, and retain qualified employees under the current part time structure. Providing permanent part-time positions would provide the workers with incentive to stay.

DIRECTOR ROMO

Director Romo made a presentation relating to Code Enforcement Officer positions and proposed bringing one full-time Code Enforcement Officer to provide stability.
Responding to a question by Councilmember Miranda, Director Romo indicated that the cost of $82,000 as shown in the budget includes overall compensation and benefits. He added that 40% of the costs would be covered through mining funds. He then discussed signage and street curb markings and how that should be looked into in the near future.

Interim City Manager Carreon continued with her presentation and discussed the Finance Department’s request for a temporary position to assist. She also spoke on the need to hire an Assistant to the Senior Center Coordinator. She noted that Sara Ponce will soon retire from this position and that it is a crucial position to fill.

Councilmember Ambriz wondered whether the Assistant to the Senior Center Coordinator position can be frozen for one year, to which Senior Center Coordinator Delgado indicated that this is a vital position and that leaving the position vacant would severely impact the department’s operations.

Mayor Breceda stated that the budget looks good.

Mayor Pro Tem Garcia said he felt confident that next fiscal year will be good and that the City is moving in the right direction. He added that he would like to have more time to review the budget and implement it at a later date.

Responding to a question by Councilmember Ortiz regarding Commission benefits, Interim City Manager Carreon indicated that the costs of health care benefits that the commissioners receive through Blue Cross are based on their age; the higher the age, the higher the cost.

Councilmember Ambriz expressed his support of the budget.

Responding to a question by Councilmember Miranda, Interim City Manager Carreon indicated that the budget represents operational revenues and that she did not include anticipated revenues since these monies can be delayed. She stated that she tends to be conservative and that it is standard practice in finance to only report what will definitely happen. She said that these revenues will not fully resolve the structural operational budget deficit, but that it will help build up reserves.

Councilmember Miranda also asked about the sale of the Alderson site, to which City Attorney Galante advised that, based on direction received during Closed Session, staff needs to hold discussions with representatives of the AmVets. There is also a question regarding the title that is being addressed. Staff is currently drafting a
purchase sale agreement that will hopefully motivate the title company to approve the title condition.

Councilmember Miranda asked about police overtime costs, to which Chief Miranda indicated that the department has made significant gains and spoke on current staffing challenges for the department.

Councilmember Miranda also asked about upcoming construction projects and whether some of these can be deferred, to which Director Tam stated that special mining funds are being used to keep up with infrastructure needs, but that he would need to study them again to provide a definite answer. He added that special mining funding is being combined with other fund sources to conduct infrastructure improvements. Each year he presents a list of projects that are being funded with different sources and staff is trying to keep up with those projects. He said that he does not believe that the city is exceeding the money that is being received from special mining.

Councilmember Miranda noted that some salaries are paid from special mining and asked whether this fund will be exceeded, to which Interim City Manager Carreon said that, traditionally, special mining revenues exceed expenditures. However, this year, since there are more necessary capital improvement projects, expenditures are expected to exceed revenues by about $400,000.

Councilmember Miranda stated that he was not ready to make any decision on the budget tonight and requested more time to consider it. Though he did say that he was grateful for what the team has been able to accomplish.

Councilmember Ortiz agreed and asked about the Performance Improvement Plan that was entered into with the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority, to which Interim City Manager Carreon indicated that the City was formally removed from the agreement in March.

Councilmember Ortiz thanked Interim City Manager Carreon for this workshop format and noted that it provides greater transparency into the budgetary process.

Mayor Breceda also thanked Interim City Manager Carreon and staff for all its hard work. He expressed his joy in the Council working together and thanked the employees for their contribution to the City.

City Attorney Galante also noted that his firm has not proposed a rate increase for about seven years in recognition of the City's budget troubles.
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

[Signature]

Laura M. Nieto, CMC
Deputy City Clerk

Approved as submitted at the meeting of June 24, 2015.