

**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
MINUTES**

July 22, 2013

Mayor Vierra called the July 22, 2013 City Council Study Session to order at 5:31 p.m. with the following in attendance:

ROLL CALL Council Members Durossette, Kline, Lane, Mayor Vierra

EXCUSED Councilmember Ingwerson

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Volunteers in the Code Enforcement Program.

Deputy Fire Chief, Bryan Nicholes, presented the proposed Volunteers in Code Enforcement (VICE) program. The program would allow volunteers to search and cite for certain code violations such as excessive yard sales, illegally placed signs, trash accumulation and other general conditions of blight. Deputy Chief Nicholes further commented that the City's current code only allows police officers to write citations for these types of violations and the City's municipal code would need to be updated to allow the Code Enforcement Officer and volunteers to write citations.

COUNCIL DIRECTION:

Council directed staff to move forward with the program including a \$3,500 budget for the recruitment of five (5) volunteers. Staff to come back to Council for plan approval and Ordinance amendment.

2. District Elections.

Mike Lyons presented detailed information to the Council regarding the local election process for general law cities, including both the statutorily allowed at large system and the alternate statutorily authorized district election system.

Those speaking in favor of moving to a district election system stating benefits such as a reduction in campaign costs, ability to build better relationships with constituents and more ethnically diverse candidates:

- Maggie Mejia, Latino Community Roundtable
- Guillermo Ochoa, resident
- Rosalinda Vierra, Latino Community Roundtable
- Ken Groves, resident

Council acknowledged that campaigning within district boundaries would be more economical and might encourage others to run for office. In addition, Council stressed disappointment with a recent newspaper article that quoted a portion of a letter received by the City from the Latino Community Roundtable that stated "at large elections coupled with a lack of term limits, and no campaign finance limits, is nothing short of an incumbent-protection voting scheme". Councilmembers firmly stated that they work hard to represent every resident and feel the bigger problem lies with voter turn-out.

After further discussion, Council provided the following direction to staff:

COUNCIL DIRECTION:

Council would like to move in the direction of District Elections. First available election is 2015. Study Session in approximately three (3) months to discuss various issues including “from districts” election or “by districts” election, number of Council seats, cost factors, district boundaries, impact of annexations, overall process, public outreach meetings, and use of consultant.

6:57 p.m. There being no further business, Mayor Vierra adjourned the City Council Study Session.

/s/Chris Vierra, Mayor

/s/Cindy Heidorn, CMC, City Clerk