

WORK SESSION AGENDA

Mayor Ken
Miyagishima

Monday, April 24, 2023

**Immediately following the TIDD Board
Meeting**



City of Las Cruces®

Mayor Pro Tem
Kasandra Gandara

Councilors
Tessa Abeyta
Becki Graham
Johana Bencomo
Becky Corran
Yvonne Flores

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City of Las Cruces
Council Work Session Summary

Meeting: Work Session - Apr 24 2023

TITLE: PROGRESS REPORT ON REALIZE LAS CRUCES.

PURPOSE(S) OF DISCUSSION: ☒ Inform/Update ☐ Direction/Guidance ☐ Legislative
Development/Policy

BACKGROUND / KEY ISSUES / CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

In March of 2021, the City of Las Cruces entered into a contract with Freese and Nichols, Inc., (F&N) to amend the City of Las Cruces Development Codes, also known as Realize Las Cruces. The project has been in progress for two years and is in phase two of three phases. The first phase consisted of code user interviews, a virtual open house, and the gathering, review, and analysis of applicable codes and policies. The resulting deliverable for phase one was the Code Diagnostic which outlined structural modifications to the existing code and recommended various content changes. The findings of that report were shared with City Council during a work session in August of 2021.

Phase two of Realize Las Cruces consists of the drafting and review of individual chapters of the the code. The Realize Las Cruces Technical Advisory Ad-Hoc Committee was established by Council in the summer of 2022 and has been meeting regularly to review the phase two drafts. Portions of phase two are complete with some critical sections such as zoning and roadway design under review. Staff and the F&N consultants would like to update the City Council of the progress thus far and the next steps.

PLAN(S):

City Council Strategic Plan, Department Strategic Business Plan, Elevate Las Cruces

COMMITTEE/BOARD REVIEW:

P&Z, Oversight Committee



City of Las Cruces

Council Work Session Summary

Meeting: Work Session - Apr 24 2023

TITLE: FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET REVIEW

PURPOSE(S) OF DISCUSSION: ☒ Inform/Update ☐ Direction/Guidance ☐ Legislative
Development/Policy

BACKGROUND / KEY ISSUES / CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

The budget development process begins with the production of the five-year forecast, the gathering of City Department budget requests, City Strategic Plan, department strategic plans, and Elevate Las Cruces. Budget staff will review the progress of budget development with City Council through the annual budget retreat held on February 22 & 23, work sessions, public hearings, and City Council meetings.

The work session will include a discussion of the FY2024 Budget and its assumptions, department requests, and the Capital Improvement Program.

PLAN(S):

Elevate Las Cruces



City of Las Cruces

Council Work Session Summary

Meeting: Work Session - Apr 24 2023

TITLE: RESILIENCY STRATEGIES FOR THE FRANCHISE FEE AGREEMENT

PURPOSE(S) OF DISCUSSION: ☒ Inform/Update ☐ Direction/Guidance ☐ Legislative
Development/Policy

BACKGROUND / KEY ISSUES / CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

The Franchise Fee Agreement between El Paso Electric (EPE) and the City of Las Cruces expired in 2009, however, the City continues to receive month-to-month payments from an implied agreement. In 2022, the City initiated the renewal process of the Franchise Fee Agreement - raising the rates from two percent to three percent of EPE's gross revenues within the City limit - and will be bringing the Agreement forward for Council approval.

The Sustainability Office will propose a plan to dedicate the additional one percent franchise fee revenue to increase energy affordability and heat resilience in low-and moderate-income (LMI) neighborhoods. These funds will provide a wraparound service to educate; assist with rebates, tax credits, and financial programs; develop workforce; and facilitate weatherization and HVAC services that will increase thermal comfort and significantly reduce energy cost burdens for all homes serviced. This program will be co-created by the community and will address systemic inequities to position LMI neighborhoods to better withstand extreme weather events and energy price volatility.

SUPPORT INFORMATION:

[Resiliency Strategies and Equity](#)

PLAN(S):

Other, Elevate Las Cruces

COMMITTEE/BOARD REVIEW:

TSI PRC

How can weatherization and other household retrofits create systemic change in Las Cruces?

STRUCTURAL EQUITY What historical, cultural, and institutional practices have led to inequalities among households?	PROCEDURAL EQUITY What barriers exist to creating inclusive and accessible processes and programs?	DISTRIBUTIONAL EQUITY Do policies and programs fairly distribute the benefits and burdens throughout the community?	TRANSGENERATIONAL EQUITY How will policies and programs we develop now have impacts on future generations?
Neighborhoods that have not benefited from new best practices: • Substandard older housing • Urban heat • Limited multimodal options • Challenges with social connectedness	Practices that cannot address the root or scale of the problem: • Short-term billing assistance • Small-scale programs • Participant requirement • Stricter legislative mandates • Business obligations to stockholders	Households with lower income pay a disproportionate energy share and last to upgrade. • LMI residents energy burdened • Increased health risks due to housing • Limited financial support • Will shoulder stranded assets	Substandard housing, limited access to services and financial burdens perpetuate a cycle of poverty: • Residents in a reactive mode of addressing escalating problems • System set up to make residents recipient of services rather than driver.
CONSTRUCTION STRATEGIES <i>Completed -</i> • Examine scale and interrelationships of problems • Set ambitious goals examining strategies to achieve long-term change <i>Proposed -</i> • Pilot a scalable model for retrofitting LMI houses	ORGANIZATIONAL STRATEGIES <i>Completed -</i> • Bring together stakeholders to explore best practice strategies • Ensure resident stakeholders are co-creators of this process <i>Proposed -</i> • Transition community organizations to be advocates for education and change	FINANCIAL STRATEGIES <i>Completed -</i> • Gather resources that detail available rebates/tax credits, qualifying technology , retrofit and life cycle costs <i>Proposed -</i> • Foster financial programs that support revolving loans, underwriting, and lower interest.	ECONOMIC STRATEGIES <i>Completed -</i> • Examine workforce readiness and ways to cultivate it. • Discuss various models for supporting scaled program <i>Proposed -</i> • Partner and support workforce efforts.
CONSTRUCTION OUTCOMES Building resilient housing: • Energy burdens • Thermal comfort • Electrification with high efficient units	ORGANIZATIONAL OUTCOMES Shifting power dynamics: • Building trust while designing with the community • Modeling systemic problem solving	FINANCIAL OUTCOMES Transforming finance models: • Leveraging IRA dollars to stretch funding • Navigating IRA, state, and local finance and service programs	ECONOMIC OUTCOMES Breaking cycle of poverty: • Providing more disposable income • Increasing equity in homes • Closing disparity gaps

Impact: challenging the way we solve problems