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CALL TO ORDER

[Time: 00:00:02]

Mayor Ortega: 2024 City Council Meeting and Work Study Session to order. City Clerk Ben Lane, please conduct the roll call.

ROLL CALL

[Time: 00:00:11]

City Clerk Ben Lane: Thank you, Mayor. Mayor Dave Ortega.

Mayor Ortega: Present.

Clerk Ben Lane: Vice Mayor Barry Graham.

Vice Mayor Graham: Here.

Ben Lane: Councilmembers Tammy Caputi.

Councilwoman Caputi: Here.

Ben Lane: Tom Durham.

Councilmember Durham: Here.

Ben Lane: Betty Janik.

Councilwoman Littlefield: She's here.

Ben Lane: Kathy Littlefield.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Here.

Ben Lane: And Solange Whitehead.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Here.

Ben Lane: City Manager Jim Thompson.

Jim Thompson: Here.

Ben Lane: The city attorney is here as well.

Ben Lane: City Treasurer Sonia Andrews.

Sonia Andrews: Here.

Ben Lane: Acting City Auditor Lai Cluff.

Lai Cluff: Here.

Ben Lane: And the Clerk is present. Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Ortega: Excellent. We have Scottsdale Police Sergeant Sean Ryan and Detective Dustin Patrick as well as Firefighter Bobby Kohnen if anyone requires their assistance. Let's begin with the Pledge of Allegiance. I will call on Councilmember Durham.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

[Time: 00:01:00]

Councilmember Durham: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands: One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for

all.

MAYOR'S REPORT

[Time: 00:01:25]

Mayor Ortega: Well, at this time, I do want to draw our attention to the ongoing wars in foreign nations as they fight to protect their democracy and freedom. I ask you to join me in a moment, as we pause in silent reflection for these war-torn countries.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you very much. It's important to note that the wildfires, the boulder fire and the stress that it's put on our first responders has been very tremendous. They have done a valiant job. The forest service is in charge of the operation, but our firefighters and police officers have been handling evacuations. Certain things have been lifted, and all hands-on deck. So we do want to commend on behalf of the Council, all of our first responders.

Also note that today is the 19th anniversary or birthday of our fire department. The fire department was established July 1, 2005. And as we come into our 20th year, and next year why we, of course, want to commend how far we've come in these 20 years.

Also, please stay safe for 4th of July. Our firefighters are on alert, but we do we have received numerous emails and questions about illegal fireworks being shot in parks and streets and near school grounds. That's just wrong and that puts everyone on alert, and certainly costs, places our first responders in jeopardy in getting there.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

[Time: 00:03:45]

Next, we will have the City Manager Jim Thompson to provide his report.

City Manager Jim Thompson: Thank you, Mayor. This evening, we have a Fast Five video.

I'm Public Affairs Supervisor Holly Peralta with Five Fast things happening around the city you need to know.

Starting us off at number five, in recognition of Arizona drowning impact awareness month, Scottsdale aquatics will waive enrollment fees for swim lessons throughout August. Resident registration begins Tuesday, July 23rd. Lessons are offered for children as young as 6 months old, all the way up through adult. In 2023, Scottsdale aquatics offered 336 free swim lessons to more than 200 participants. Learn more at [Scottsdaleaz.gov](https://scottsdaleaz.gov). Search free swim.

Coming in at number four, it's an opportunity to own a piece of Scottsdale history. Historic Old

Town bench replacement project is underway and after decades of use, the wooden blanks and concrete links will be available for purchase through the public surplus auction website in the coming weeks. If you are interested in bidding, get registered now at publicsurplus.com.

Next up at number three, did you know that Scottsdale's Vista del Camino Community offers a free Saturday summer camp. There's arts and crafts, game, food and more. It runs noon to 4 p.m. July 27th for anyone six years and older. Registration is required. Visit [Scottsdaleaz.gov](https://scottsdaleaz.gov) and visit summer Saturdays to learn more and sign up.

You can use Scottsdale transit to find Scottsdale shopping. Last month's closure of the Fry's grocery store left some transit riders looking for a new place to grocery stop. Scottsdale's trolley and valley metro regional transit system offers service to several grocery stores. Trolleys offer free service with a 20-minute ride frequency and operate 6 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Get routes and more information at [Scottsdaletrolley.com](https://scottsdaletrolley.com).

Wrapping things up at number one, congratulations to Scottsdale Airport for earning the Federal Aviation Administration Western Pacific region outstanding airplane award. The award recognizes airports that excel. They were praised for safety and community engagement and its completion of substantial improvement and construction projects. More than 171,000 takeoffs and landings occurred at Scottsdale airport in 2023, making it one the busiest single runway generation aviation airports in the state. Learn more at [Scottsdaleaz.gov](https://scottsdaleaz.gov) and search airport. That's Scottsdale's fast five for July. Thanks for watching.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

[Time: 00:7:00]

Mayor Ortega: Thank you, Jim. We'll continue with our meeting. During tonight's meeting, the Council may make a motion to recess into Executive Session to obtain legal advice on any applicable item on the agenda. If authorized by the Council, the Executive Session would then be held immediately and would not be open to the public. The public meeting would then resume following an Executive Session.

Also, per our Council rules, citizens attending Council meetings shall observe the same rules of order, decorum applicable to ourselves and city staff. And it will also help the meeting run much smoother.

Additionally, the Council recently updated Council rules. Councilmembers shall not send any electronic communications while attending public Council meetings or executive sessions. Only the devices provided for information are, can be used. All other electronic devices must be stored elsewhere. Moving on, we are going to public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

[Time: 00:08:05]

Public comment is an opportunity for the public to come forward on any non-agendized item. The rule requires that advocacy for or against a candidate or ballot measure during the Council meetings is not allowed pursuant to state law, and it would therefore not be allowed. We have not received any requests for the public comment portion. Therefore, I will close the public comment portion of our meeting.

MINUTES

[Time: 00:08:43]

Next, we have the Minutes. We have the approval of the Minutes. First of all, I would ask for a motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2024. Do I have a motion?

Councilwoman Janik: So moved.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Second.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you we have a motion and a second by Councilwoman. Please record your vote. Thank you. We are unanimous.

CONSENT AGENDA

[Time: 00:09:15]

We will now move on to the Consent Agenda Items, 1 through 8A. This is an opportunity for these items to be included as one motion. It's also there's also an opportunity for the public to speak on any Consent Agenda Items. Seeing none, I therefore close public comment on Consent Agenda Items. I see Councilwoman Janik requests the floor.

Councilwoman Janik: Thank you, Mayor. I would like to approve items 1 through 8A on the Consent Agenda Items.

Councilwoman Littlefield: Second.

Councilmember Durham: Second.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. We have a motion and a second. Seeing no further discussion, please record your vote. We are unanimous. Thank you.

REGULAR AGENDA – ITEM 9

[Time: 00:10:08]

Next, we will move on to Item 9 and 10 on our Regular Agenda. Item 9 was The District also known as Maya Day, plus nightclub. Conditional use permit 9-up-2012 Number 3. This item was duly agendized, however it was withdrawn from tonight's agenda at the request of the applicant. So, to clarify that, we will not take any action on Item number 9, and it is excluded from our agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA – ITEM 10

[Time: 00:10:47]

Moving on to Item number 10, the Old Town Parking and Parking Garage Update, Possible Creation of the New Capital Improvement Plan C.I.P. Project. Our presenter is Dan Worth, Public Works Director.

Public Works Director Dan Worth: Good evening, Mayor and Council. I have an agenda item in front of you with one request, which you can see on the screen, it's to adopt a resolution authorizing the creation of a new project for a parking garage in the northeast quadrant. And I will show you some details on what we're talking about in the rest of the presentation. But it would authorize the creation of the project and fund \$2 million for the current fiscal year, which began today to pay for the beginning of design and development of that project. The agenda language that is posted also allows for discussion of options at other locations in Old Town. And I will go into that a little bit in the rest of the presentation, but we're only asking you to approve one thing, but we have agendized it so you can give us direction on other issues as well.

I want to go over what we talked about a few months ago. We had a Work Study in April. We centered much of the discussion on two different locations. On the left is a very conceptual look at adding two decks above the existing parking garage, the parking corral at First and Brown in the southern half of the city or the southern half of Old Town, the northeast quadrant. We're talking about the garage on the right, Stetson 6th Avenue, currently surface parking. The proposal was to build a garage with one at grade and one above grade deck. You can see the cost for the different options associated with those projects. That was the bulk of the discussion in April.

We presented you two options. They both built a garage at each location. The difference was the number of decks at the First and Brown location. They both needed additional funding, which would likely come from the general fund. Those were the two options that we presented, we had a lot of good discussion, and we got a lot of feedback and I think the primary feedback we got fits into three different categories. There was a great deal of concern expressed about spending bond money in the northeast quadrant. There's a feeling that the wording that we had

in the promotional material for the bond election in 2019, led one reasonably to believe that we would spend this money south of Indian School Road and not north of Indian School Road. We heard that and I want to address that. I'm going to address each one of these three major points as we go through the presentation.

[Time: 00:13:59]

The second bullet, we propose one or two additional decks above the existing garage at First and Brown, the existing garage is at grade level and a below grade level. So, adding a deck adding two decks it would come up out of the ground and you get some verticality. Mayor expressed some concern and others seconded the idea, that that might be incompatible with the design aesthetic that we have the historical Old Town area that this garage sits adjacent to.

And then the third bullet we clearly heard support for each location. Some of you supported one location, some of you supported the others and some of you supported both. But we clearly heard support for garages at each of the locations. So, I want to address each of these in turn.

First, the idea of or the thought that the commitment and the bond promotional materials to spend the money south of Indian School. The three graphics here, if you look at the one on the left, this is what could have happened if all three of the alternatives that we listed specifically in the bond fact sheet were built. Up at the top, you can see a plus one. We didn't know this at the time, but the Panera Bread lot, the First Avenue lot is small, and if we built a structure on it, we'd have to abide by the setbacks that are required for buildings. We'd have to have A.D.A. accessibility which raises the height to the ceiling on the first floor to the point where the ramps are so steep, you can't park cars on them. You add all of this stuff together, we just, we didn't add any spaces and it made no sense to build that garage. But that was one of the three locations listed in the bond material.

In the lower left of that left-hand graphic, you can see the plus 133. This was adding a below grade level under the surface parking at the Stagebrush Theater. And the thought was that at that point in time we were discussing the possible of having public parking in the Museum Square project this below grade level could have potentially connected to that.

And then the lower right is adding one level to the First and Brown garage. So, we could have done those three things, fully complied with the language that was or the suggested locations that were in that bond promotional material, and it would have given us a net increase of 231 spaces.

The middle graphic is what's going on now. Instead of building a garage and getting one space, we are proposing to use the bond money to pay for 55 spaces that we negotiated in the Artisan development, about 300 feet away. So essentially the same location. Instead of building 133 spaces below grade level, at Stagebrush, we're not going to do that. We are reconfiguring Stagebrush surface parking to go add 33 spaces and we have bought and paid for 155 spaces in

the Museum Square development. And that is still in the works. We have meetings scheduled to try to further this project along. We fully believe we are going to get those spaces. Without doing anything else, those three things add up to 243 spaces. We have already gotten commitments to build more spaces than we could have ended up with if we did everything in the bond pamphlets. And then on the right, it's basically, the graphic in the middle, plus what I'm talking about tonight. We could build a garage at each location.

[Time: 00:17:56]

Both First and Brown location and the northeast quadrant. If we built the garage if we built addition, one deck, you get another 97 spaces and a net increase of 340 and compare to the 230 we could have got that if we did everything in the bond language, I think we're we can make a strong case that we're keeping faith with what we told the voters we were going to do. So that's addressing that first point and I will come back to that.

The design aesthetics, we did some renderings from a couple of different vantage points of what a one deck addition and what a two-deck addition could look like at that location. This is the one-deck addition, and let me back up, first bullet. During the discussion in April, the Mayor also pointed out that we've got a potential partner to the south of this site in Honor Health. Might there be some opportunities to partner with them, if they have any intention of building a garage to meet their needs. We could add some space to it to meet public needs, and we've met with Honor Health. The reality is that they don't have any plans in the foreseeable future to build parking and if they did, the need that they most identified was at the southern end of their campus, near their new neurological center. So not a location that would achieve the same impact that we're looking to achieve here.

So, we had that discussion. It doesn't appear to be viable. So, looking at the aesthetics, this is what a one deck addition, and it doesn't change the appearance a lot, because the existing garage is just the surface and the below grade. You don't see the below grade. The surface, it doesn't have walls. It has the canopy, and you can see the canopy in this rendering. It has a canopy that's intended to create a look that's compatible with the historic Old Town design aesthetic. If we added one deck, we would not add walls to the second deck. We would add a parapet so the height would increase a little bit above that canopy, but it would still be at a scale that's fairly well in keeping with and you can see obviously the historic property of the church across the street. It you know, I'm the engineer. I'm not the guy that's going to tell you if it fits aesthetically. The architect has a better idea than I do on that. But the you know, we hope to be able to show that that one deck and possibly even two is acceptable. This is what two looks like. Different vantage point. This is standing next to the garage looking back towards the church. And you can see the one deck addition on the left, two deck addition on the right. Starts to look more like a parking garage, although this is just a block diagram. There are things that we would be able to do, that we would hope to do with finishes and appurtenances on that upper level that we could make it more compatible with the design element in the area. I just wanted to show you a couple of things that would give you an idea of what it would to add

a deck or two decks.

[Time: 00:21:18]

And then finally, I mentioned in April, we had support for garages in each location. So, the proposal I'm giving you proposes garages in both locations. I'm only asking you to approve creating one capital project, that would be for the northeast quadrant and adding funding, which we have available now, \$2 million, from general fund contingency to get started on design for that project. The intent would then be to go through the CIP budget development process for the 25/26 CIP. This would be a project request to fund the rest of the cost for that parking garage and you can see the cost down at the bottom \$15 million. And we believe that you know, given the current reality, that there's a very strong chance that we would be able to fund it in the 25/26 CIP.

So, the proposal would be general fund only. And then all the bond money goes to First and Brown and this shows what it would look like if we built one additional deck. This slide is exactly the same as the last one. It shows what it would look like if we built 2 additional decks. You can see in either case we have money left over, we pay for Artisan, we pay for First and Brown, either one deck or two decks and then we would have money left over. Instead of spending that money in the southeast quadrant, we will do that with general fund. We'd spend that leftover money, if we were to spend it, we'd go back to the bond committee and entertain recommendations to bring back to you to spend that on another project in the same question. That was in question two of the bond which would include park projects as well.

So, there are several opportunities where we have already allocated general fund money where we could replace that with bond money if we freed up bond money from the First and Brown parking garage, the Old Town parking garage. So that is really all have for the presentation. I would be happy to answer any questions or address any concerns.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. At this point, let's go to public testimony. And then we'll come to Councilman Durham. I show Sonnie Kirtley, French Thompson, and Bob Pejman. Patty Badenoch has donated her time to Bob Pejman. So, proceed. Thank you, Sonnie.

[Time: 00:23:45]

Sonnie Kirtley: Thank you Mayor. I'm Sonnie Kirtley, but I'm reading a message from Marilyn Atkinson who is the Chairman of the Historic Old Town Architectural Committee.

Mayor Ortega and City Council, we are some support of two levels for the parking garage at Second Street and Brown to add 216 spaces. The Historic Old Town Architectural Committee requests to be involved in the design so it complements the history and existing style of the building designs in the area.

As a 60-plus year merchant in historic Old Town, I know from experience, when an area is under

construction, it is exceedingly difficult for businesses to maintain customers. We need the two levels to be done at one time. So, the merchants business don't have to go through a construction period again. At a later time when the city realizes the need for that additional parking. The cost for construction was approved by the voters in 2019 bond election, so the funds are available now and there would be no need to have another separate bond election in later years for a second story. This is prudent use of city money because we know construction costs will increase with any delay. Yeah. History. Merchants won't have two construction periods to go through. The additional two-level design in your packet shows that it's appropriate for the area for design and height.

Also, it's important to remember that the key reasons to have more parking in this area is so the historic Old Town merchants survive and prosper by not having their valuable parking spaces used up during major events in the new Civic Center, and spring training events at peak season. Remember that the 100 space Honor Health temporary parking can disappear at any time. If it does, building only one level will return the parking to the original current inventory. Bottom line, building two levels is the only way to actually increase the parking supply.

We urge you to give direction to the staff at the July 10th City Council Meeting to authorize bond funds for building two additional levels on the corral lot. This will add to the critically needed parking for this area of Old Town, for many years to come. Thank you, Marilyn Atkinson.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. Next, we have French Thompson and then Bob Pejman.

[Time: 00:26:32]

French Thompson: Mr. Mayor and City Council, thank you for having me here in public comment. She said that so calmly and just nice. I'm not really calm about this. I've been in business down there for 28 years and I literally not calm about this situation. It's really time to stop procrastinating. In the thesaurus, it's delaying, putting off doing, doodling, hesitating, dragging one's feet, giving the run around, playing a waiting game, playing for time or postponing. I think you guys get my drift on what procrastination is. This bond was passed in 2019. This here we are five years later, and the city staff is suggesting you direct the city to build another parking garage, not this. The one in the corral at First and Brown.

Since 2005, not one single parking space has been added to city-owned inventory. I made a presentation about how the city took away 650 parking places from the Giant Stadium with Google earth images. In 1993, there were 177 more parking places where Museum Square is right now. There were 234 parking spaces and now there's only 57. These are the city's figures. I came up with these from that. So please stop procrastinating and direct the city staff to build the two additional levels at Brown and First Street. We have a capable architect, who is the mayor of this city that I know could direct and get a beautiful looking parking garage. I just I have confidence that that could happen that the aesthetics could be done. The bond money that the taxpayers approved in 2019 and here we are five years later, and the

city is still procrastinating. In the meantime, the city spent \$10 million on a roundabout. And now, I'm driving up the street and I see that they're building a tunnel underneath Chaparral Road. Now I know that's got to be pretty expensive. There's a tunnel underneath Chaparral Road right across the street. Now neither one of these projects are someone's life it's something that's going to affect their livelihood. It might affect their convenience but it's not affecting their livelihood. These parking garages affect people's livelihood. They need the parking for people to come Downtown and do business with them. So, I just urge you emotionally and very upset, please stop procrastinating and direct city staff to do the building at Brown and First Street and do the two levels. It's something that's been voted on. So please. Get it done. If you build it, they'll come.

Mayor Ortega: Next Bob Pejman, you have four minutes.

[Time: 00:30:01]

Bob Pejman: Thank you, Mayor Ortega, Councilmembers, name is Bob Pejman, and the address is on record. I've talked about the history of the northeast quadrant because that's what the main topic of this agenda is and back in the 1970s, the quadrants in Old Town have improvement districts. So, what that meant is that all these districts, rather quadrants participated in districts where they taxed themselves to build public parking. The northeast quadrant, unfortunately, was not one of them, so back in the 1970s, they were given P2 credits and P3 credits without requiring them to invest and build their own parking. That's 50 years ago.

Fast forward to today. That's why they have a parking shortage. There's no dispute that the northeast quadrant has a parking shortage. The dispute has been what's the source of funding for them. Now, when you fast forward from the '70s, all the way to 2019, when the bond initiative was put on the ballot, \$21 million of that bond initiative was slated for Old Town parking because of shortages. I don't think anyone who that read that, maybe not anyone, but most people who read that ballot language, I don't think they thought it would be the entertainment district, also known as the bar district. They thought Old Town is where it is so when the money was trying to be diverted to the entertainment district, I call it bait and switch, and I still do. But now, that's not the case here anymore here today because the city has found the \$15 million out of the general fund money to dedicate to that. And that's great. So, we support that but we supported contingent or conditioned on at the same time in this meeting, this Council approved the northeast quadrant funding, with the general fund and also direct staff to build two stories on the corral parking. Because if you do the first one without the second one, then you have all of a sudden put the northeast quadrant parking in front of the voters. What the voters approved in 2019 and that's going to be a slap in the face of the voters. That's not what we need right now given what's up.

Now let me talk about the two stories there has been some concern over the two stories being an eye sore or this or that. I need to remind this Council, this parking is for functional reasons primarily and it can be made aesthetically to look good by the way and even what I see on the

screen, the canopies and everything, and Dan Worth says it looks like a parking lot, duh, it's a parking lot. But it can be made to look nice. As French said, I'm sure there's expertise here to do that. Now, also consider the fact that Honor Health, temporary lot will go away. If we build one level, we're back where we were. Only building two levels will get you will end with additional parking, not to end up where we are. Also, speaking of Honor Health, that entire land has been zoned for 150 feet of height. So, you already have 150 feet that can be built across it, and also, the plan for what's going to be built or the Saguaro Hotel site, that's 90 feet. I met with someone's in the developer's team today. 90 feet. Six buildings, the four or five I forgot the count, but there 90 feet. That's going to be behind Brown. The horse has left the barn or the station, whatever the expression is.

So, to say that 2 feet is an eye sore, again, you've got to look at what's the reason for this parking lot, and it's for historic Old Town merchants to survive and prosper. So, I hope we can do both. It's a win/win scenario. Everyone's going to be happy. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. Seeing no further requests to speak, I will close public comment. Now we'll begin our deliberation. And Councilmember Durham.

[Time: 00:34:28]

Councilmember Durham: Thank you. I want to ask Mr. Worth, what is the basis for the belief that the bond funds can't be used north of Indian School Road because I read the language, and it says the parking will be built at locations to be determined. So, there was there was no specificity in the bond language. And so, I don't understand why the bond funds can't be used in the northeast quadrant. I would be opposed to using the general funds for the Brown parking lot because we have three parking lots in that vicinity, and I have never seen them totally used. We have the library parking lot. We have the performing arts parking lot, and we have the Brown corral. I have taken tours of them several times and I general found them to be one-third to one half utilized. And so, like the top floors are almost never utilized. If you go to the library parking lot, the top is not going to be filled with cars, it's not going to have hardly any cars in it.

The same with the performing arts, as you go up the levels, there's fewer and fewer cars. I was just there for the Juneteenth Celebration a couple of weeks ago, which was a pretty big celebration, and the top floors were empty. So, I really don't understand the logic of adding even one story to Browns ranch, to the Brown corral, because I don't think it will be used. The basement is hardly ever used now, and if we are going to waste money, I would only waste money on one level, and certainly not on two.

So, I just don't understand the logic of using general fund of taking away bond funds from the northeast quadrant and shifting and using general funds for that location. I don't understand why there's the switch and there's certainly no bait and switch because the bond language specifically said we're going to put the garages in locations to be determined, where the parking is needed. And I've seen nothing to indicate that the parking is needed on the Brown lot.

And I think one of the last times we did this back in April, I asked if we could do so surveys to see the usage of those lots. And I would be interested if we've done that. Thank you, Mayor.

Dan Worth: Mayor, Councilmember Durham, your first question was something to the effect of why do we feel that there's no ability to spend bond money north of Indian School. When we presented this in April, I believe that we presented what you just said, that the language on the bond question, the ballot was places to be determined in Old Town. The professional materials we used to inform the voters on what they were voting on, went into some details and included three example locations.

The three example locations were all south of Indian School. We don't feel that that prohibits us from spending bond money north of Indian School. But the proposal we're making avoids that discussion. It acknowledges that there is the desire on the part of many people to spend it south of Indian School, we do spend it south of Indian School and we use general fund for the garage north of Indian School. We don't feel it's required, but we feel that respects both points of view.

Councilmember Durham: Well, my point of view is I would see no reason to spend the money at the Brown corral garage if it's not going to be used and everything that I've ever observed tells me it won't be used, at least the certainly not two floors aren't going to be used.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. Next, we will go to Councilwoman Janik. I do remind you this is a healthy discussion, but we also have to observe what is on the agenda in terms of the resolution. Councilwoman Janik, Vice Mayor Graham would be next.

[Time: 00:39:08]

Councilwoman Janik: Thank you, Mayor. Thank you, Dan. Good presentation. I worked on that bond committee, and I talked to a lot of people and I did a lot of presentations and the advertising indicated that this garage would be built in Old Town Scottsdale. And when people went to the polls, that's what they thought they were voting for and I guarantee with this prime location, that this garage will be filled. Most of the time. Not all the time. But you can go through the city at any time and find empty garages and take pictures. And I know that some of the people in the audience have done that. So just because it's not full at the particular time you were there doesn't mean there aren't other times.

In addition to that, we have the new Civic Center Park plaza where there will be more people attending events in our downtown area. And for me, you cannot have enough parking, because it's always when you really, really need it, there's never enough. And I also think I know that we need the parking in the northeast quadrant. I don't question that. I am very pleased that the funding is there to support that effort.

And I think we need to be realistic in bringing the city together as one is a very, very important goal for Scottsdale and I think doing what Dan has suggested, we can accomplish that. So, I feel

very comfortable that both of these garages and two levels, at Second and Brown along with the larger version in the northeast quadrant is exceedingly appropriate for our city, and I'm very sure they will both be used quite a bit. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. Vice Mayor Graham.

[Time: 00:41:25]

Vice Mayor Graham: Thank you, Mayor. Councilmember Durham pondered or said he couldn't think of a reason to spend the money there and one reason I can think of is that's exactly what voters told us to do. And I'm repeating what Betty, Councilwoman Janik just said. So, I want to remind my colleague that this is not about most of the time, most of the summer, it's going to be pretty empty. Most of the time special events venues, stadiums, are empty. It's about the parking you need when you need it.

Spending money north of Indian School Road contradicts the command that voters gave us on the 2019 ballot, and Councilwoman Janik made illusion to it, but we knew then that the northeast had a parking shortage. We knew it way before 2019, that the northeast had a parking shortage, because that was by design. We've had a parking shortage in the northeast for many, many years. We said on the ballot Old Town. And that would lead to the reasonable expectation that it would be built in the Old Town vicinity.

I want to comment that we are putting our downtown merchants, Sonnie Kirtley made a comment well, Marilyn via Sonnie Kirtley made a comment about it. We are putting our downtown merchants and everyone who's invested a lot of money in that area, in the Brown area at risk, because we are at the behest of the Honor Health facility. They can pull it any time they want. We asked city staff, it's month-to-month. We don't pay for it. I don't understand how that works. There's no payment for it. They can yank it any time they want. That's not a sustainable solution.

We do need at least two additional levels of parking on the corral. We have skillful, experienced people with architecture and design expertise that will make it look western, high quality, and inviting. We are dragging our feet and residents are wondering if we are going to keep our word. And actually, the need for parking in the downtown in that vicinity of the downtown is worse than 2019, five years ago, half a decade ago. We have expanded the Civic Center there's been all sorts of expansion, the stadium improvements, a lot is going on down there. The need is actually greater today than when voters commanded us to build it half a decade ago.

And last comment I will make for the time being is that this Council just passed an annual budget, and that budget includes what some like to call a cookie jar of \$15 million for general plan initiatives that can be spent on anything that the general plan calls for. The general plan makes reference directly to the Walker Study. We have 350 merchants in the northeast begging for help. They need more parking in the northeast. We've known that for many years. Not a

surprise. And I say let's use what some people call the cookie jar to get that process going and that would be something that I support and would support the creation of this project. Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Ortega: Okay, next Councilwoman Whitehead and then Littlefield.

[Time: 00:45:42]

Councilwoman Whitehead: So, Mr. Worth, I wanted to confirm the added, extra bond funds can go to some of the park projects that you mentioned. I just wanted to confirm that.

Dan Worth: Mayor, Councilwoman Whitehead, that's correct.

Councilwoman Whitehead: As long as that's correct, I mean it's at the end of the day the funding for I would be legally, absolutely, we can use the bond funding for the northeast quadrant, if we use those funds for one of our bond parks projects, that's fine too, and then use general fund dollars. I mean, this case, it's really irrelevant which way we go on that one.

I just want to point out, having been involved in the city for quite some time, it took 20 years to finish the bond projects from 2000. So, nobody is sitting around wondering what we're doing. If we did all the bond projects at once, we would definitely hear from people, because it would be a heck of a lot of construction and a heck of a lot of tax increases. So, we are definitely on schedule. We didn't need the parking garage during COVID. So, I have spoken with a lot of property owners, people who actually do have who are stakeholders and this is a need for parking, both in both locations. I'm comfortable with that. There's definitely some savings to be had, if we go with the two-story versus the one-story. I liked Mr. Thompson's comment that we have a capable architect in our Mayor and I'm sure that we can come up with a beautiful design for two stories, but we're here tonight to do what was really the direction from the last work study, which was designate different dollars for the northeast quadrant garage.

[Time: 00:47:43]

So with that, I would like to motion to adopt Regular Agenda Item number 10, Old Town Parking and Parking Garage Update and Possible Creation of New Capital Improvement Project, and Adopt Resolution Number 13157, authorizing the fiscal year '24/25, starting today and transfer up to \$2 million from the General Plan Initiatives for the sorry, General Plan Designation in the General Fund operating fund balance to a newly created C.I.P. Project entitled Build a New Parking Structure Northeast Quadrant of Old Town.

Councilwoman Caputi: Second.

Mayor Ortega: Okay. So, we have a motion and a second. We also have Councilwoman Littlefield and Councilwoman Caputi to speak.

[Time: 00:48:40]

Councilwoman Littlefield: Thank you, Mayor. I agree with Councilwoman Janik and Councilman Graham in what they said. I think there's room for both of these garages and they will be needed. If they aren't needed yet, they will be needed in the future as our city grows and expands and we build more and more apartments and complexes, it's going to happen. We are going to bring more people here, and they are going to bring their cars with them. They need more parking. I think the Old Town at Second and Brown, that really needs to be built. It's been needed for a long time. We haven't done it, and we need to just say, yeah, this is what we told the citizens during the bond election that we were going to do. This is how we asked them for their money, and we need to live up to those promises.

As far as the northeast quadrant, I've talked to a number of people in staff about what is the need there and how how does that happen? And they need it too. There's a shortage of parking there. They are using different funding sources for their garage. We are using bonds. Fine. Let's build both of them and build them two stories high. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Okay, Councilwoman Caputi and then myself.

[Time: 00:50:03]

Councilwoman Caputi, well, first of all, I'm happy to see that we landed in a good place. I know Mr. Thompson spoke about feeling strongly and wanted to say bad things. But actually, I think we'll end up in a good spot and so I'm happy with that. I do want to say that we already established the need for a public parking structure in the northeast quadrant at our April Work Study and I wasn't prepared to relitigate that. I think we did an excellent job of convincing and laying out the case. I heard a couple of things in the comments I didn't find true but, again, we already litigated that. I didn't want to go back. We definitely agree we need parking in the northeast, and I don't think anyone is disputing that.

The 2019 bond project, 63 money says the money will be used for parking structures in Old Town at locations to be determined. I mean, if you going to really parse all the language, I agree with Councilman Durham, it's open, but I also agree with the other comments tonight from the dais, there is this feeling amongst the residents that because we listed those three locations as specific examples, we probably did give that optic and so there are people in the city would feel obligated to provide the parking there and I have a hard time sort of fighting hard about that.

I do want to remind people we have negotiated for hundreds of spots south of Indian School. We have the Artisan, we've got Museum Square coming but of course those timelines are not known. Having a project in the pipeline is no guarantee that it's going to get built. I totally understand why that makes people worried. Museum Square has been in the pipeline for six years and not moved. So many projects that are in our pipeline can take decades and many

never happen. So that's a great point, and I want to reiterate that.

We could build at both locations with the bond money and not use general fund dollars which I know some on the Council have expressed discomfort with that, using general dollars to make up for bond shortages, but after thinking about this for a while, I think that I am okay making two separate projects. We are going to fund them with two separate buckets, but I want to put in a little caveat here. Now that we are freeing up \$21 million of bond money for parking south of Indian School that certainly doesn't mean that, yay, now we have \$21 million, let's use it as a slush fund and plunge it down. I still think it remains that we be incredibly mindful of where we spend every dollar because that's what we do on this dais. I don't want to relitigate, but we did discuss on April 16th that we have thousands of spots in and around the corral.

[Time: 00:52:59]

There are three other structures within walking distance, every single one of them has excess capacity, other than a few days of spring training. Again, we showed all the pictures. I can show pictures all day long, I've taken more pictures since. I know everyone will say, you took the picture on this day or this day or this day, but it wouldn't matter any day that I take the picture, other than the handful of spring training. That parking garage at the corral is empty. It is starting to acquire other residents in there. We have unintended consequences right now of having excess parking capacity and, again, that lot is always underutilized. And having more activities at the Civic Center do not all happen on one day. So, I appreciate that comment.

And I'm glad it's being reactivated, but more events doesn't mean more people. It simply means more days where people are parking. So again, I just want to caution that we not just build as much at the corral and spend the money. I think we need to be very careful about where we reallocate it. We want to have the best value. We want to take pressure off of our general fund. And then I do think that the Mayor's point about this being historic Old Town is certainly relevant. Yes, we can make it pretty, but you will have a two-story building in the heart of our historic Old Town. If it were any other building than a parking garage, I'm sure we would hear from the residents, all sorts of pushback about building two stories down there.

And then I also want to remind people, we are moving the farmer's market. So, for whatever it's worth, that will have to go somewhere else and that's something to think about. And then I just want to leave everyone with sort of a we had also talked a lot about improving the wayfinding for the current parking. And so, I would say whatever parking we build, let's make sure we do a better job with way finding because I'm hearing that nonstop. I tell people how much parking we have downtown and how much extra parking we have downtown, and I always hear where is it? Where is it? So, I would encourage us as a city and as a Council to keep making better usage of the parking structures that we already have and make sure that people know where they are. So, again, I could show pictures all day long. I think it's great that we're going to find a solution to make everybody happy. I would just caution that we not just throw all the extra money into the corral. I really don't think that again, it is empty 95% of the time. I can drive you

there any day of the week. I would just really caution this Council to take a very close look at exactly where we want that additional parking south of Indian School. Thank you.

[Time: 00:55:51]

Mayor Ortega: Okay. I will speak and then hopefully we'll come to a vote here. You know, I have been in Old Town for over 38 years, and I know people and businesses in every quadrant. And I say that from professionals like Skudder Gookan and some of the restaurants in the northeast quadrant all over Fifth Avenue and Old Town. They are real people and I totally agree with that, that these are the backbone of the personality of our Old Town and our downtown and they have many loyal clients, as well as they want to have a front door to a new prospects and new customers. Remember that this process was useful going through the Work Study.

The two locations are not mutually exclusive. It's not one or the other one. And I say that because although we have a three-hour parking limit, some of the description for the northeast quadrant was, gee, people are coming in for a dentist appointment or whatever. And they need a good turnaround, maybe 30 to 45 minutes. There's others and parts of Main Street that they come in for the full three hours, do some shopping and eat and so forth. So, it's an interesting mix. And it really, you have to appreciate that from, you know, the outcry.

The point that's been made is that they've got a preliminary budget and on one hand it looks like we are fast tracking, and the possibility of a parking garage in the northeast quadrant. And it can be argued that it's long overdue. So there again, because there's lacking of space on that area and at that parking lot. So I'm good with that. The possibility of meeting the needs of those businesses in the northeast quadrant is valid.

I'm still very concerned about the historic nature of the historic Old Town. Basically, I was in Council in '02, when we named I believe, 11 buildings and locations including the church there as historic value and one of them is on the estate register as well which is wonderful so encroaching too much in front of that property, I can say this, because I like to throw in my two bits. I don't get to be on D.R. Board. My peers get to be there. Excuse me. I'm sorry. Thank you. But, you know, would like to see at least some step back on that parking garage, at least one at least even with the Noriega Rodeo building or whatever that museum. I say that it may be loss of 20 spaces but it's worth it in terms of respecting that area. The you know, the push and pull, any acrimony about our intentions is again, I can go back 20 years and say, we added two parking garages, the Noriega one and the one on Fifth Avenue access and we used general funds back then on Council. So, we didn't have a bond project for that. And they both got done. I think they were built for under \$6 million, and there's got to be about 300 spaces in each of those. Well, anyway at Fifth Avenue.

So, it can be done. It can be done and there's almost an equilibrium with that. If we can get better signage, have fast turnover, remember it's not about necessarily the number of spaces. It's about the turnover. It's just like tables at a restaurant, right? You may have 100 tables, but

you want three turns. You don't want to have 200 tables when you only have, you know, half the turns. So that's what that's what keeps the energy in Old Town. That's excitement. That's the positive nature of this. So, with that, I'm hoping we can conclude with our Vice Mayor Graham.

Vice Mayor Graham: There is a motion and a second.

Mayor Ortega: Yes.

Vice Mayor Graham: I had a question for maybe the city attorney on what we are voting on. We are voting to create, city attorney, a C.I.P. project for the northeast quadrant. Does this vote have anything to do with the 2019 bond funds or the southeast section of the downtown?

[Time: 01:00:29]

City Attorney Sherry Scott: The, Mayor and Vice Mayor Graham. Yes, Resolution 13157 and I had it pulled out earlier, but I think I put it away, is just authorizing the transfer of up to \$2 million from the general plan designation and the general fund operating fund balance to a newly created C.I.P. project in the northeast quadrant of Old Town.

Vice Mayor Graham: Okay. So, nothing to do with 2019 bonds or southeast? So, kind of remains unresolved.

Mayor Ortega: Good, thank you. Councilwoman Janik. Are we ready for a question?

Councilwoman Janik: Real quick, my question is similar to Councilmember Graham. Is there anything we can do now to promote the garage in the corral location or that's another question for another time and that's where I'm kind of...

Mayor Ortega: That's an excellent reference because it was part of our discussion right now and I think we would expect that the staff could come back with some timetable, maybe after recess so we would be more aware of that.

Councilwoman Janik: Yeah.

Mayor Ortega: That's a separate decision.

Councilwoman Janik: Yes.

Mayor Ortega: But that's another part of this process.

Vice Mayor Graham: City Manager.

Mayor Ortega: Go ahead, City Manager.

[Time: 001:02:14]

City Manager Jim Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Mayor members of Council. Yes, this evening is strictly to approve and let me explain is a little bit further. The \$2 million, that designation of the general fund contingency, leaving us \$13 million in that fund for this year then we would add the parking structure. It's going to take us a while to design in the northeast quadrant and so certainly we would not we would probably be completing that near and have a definitive number to add to the C.I.P. for next year, which then we could take out of the general fund. We could take the remaining, even if we build one or two stories, and apply it as well because the bond question would allow it.

But regardless, we already have the money to approve for bond project to move forward. So, from what we are hearing tonight is to move forward with two stories, potentially a setback if I'm just looking at what I think we're hearing. So, we'll come back with definitive on that, as well. And bring that forward to for all of your consideration, but by taking the action tonight, we're already looking at the northeast quadrant, limited to the general fund and looking at a C.I.P. to backfill that. So, we would get design done this year with the \$2 million. We would turn around next year, having the C.I.P. to start that project. No different on the bond. And I would like to question or to make a statement on that as well.

We did our bonds, it was great points and many of our bond projects take years to complete. There were a couple of things because we had the pandemic. Because we had escalation in costs and all the other things we have been challenged with, we continue to accomplish all our bond projects regardless. We are fortunate that we are able to do that for the community. But more so that the timing of the projects, this was never the one at the forefront. This was towards the tail end. There's another one out there which is the Thompson Peak Bridge. That was towards the tail end too, and when we looked at the timelines of when we wished to accomplish these. We had a couple of little hiccups in the sense that we had a pandemic and some other issues with crazy escalating costs, and we put the stables, which was going to be the first one out at WestWorld, because lumber went up 300%, and waited for it to come down, because we knew it would. So, there's things like that that we had to change but outside of that, we have not changed the direction.

We moved up a little bit the dog park, but outside of that and then we ran into an issue with S.R.P. Other than that, that's pretty much the timeline we shared with the community. And so just want to make that clear, that we're still on those timelines. We are not behind schedule by any means on these projects. We only have so much capacity and we have a lot of challenges and increasing of costs. So, I think we're in a good place. I think we'll try to get both done. We will be back before you to get a definitive on the corral site and we're moving forward this evening with the design of the northeast if in fact you approve the motion on the floor. So, thank you.

Councilwoman Janik: Thank you. Thank you, Mayor. Thank you, City Manager.

Mayor Ortega: Councilwoman Whitehead?

[Time: 01:05:21]

Councilwoman Whitehead: Yes, thank you, Mayor. There was one question that I had forgotten to ask. One of the property owners asked, when are we expecting just a very preliminary design for the corral garage?

Dan Worth: Well, for the Mayor and Councilwoman Whitehead, for the corral, we have to nail down exactly what it is we are doing. I will refer to what the City Manager just mentioned. We will come back to you with the timeline and the proposal. We do have all the, if that's the direction, two stories at Second and Brown, we have all the approval we need. We've got the project approved. We have the funding approved. I need to make sure that we are straight on your direction. So, we we're going to come back and confirm at that point in time, I would anticipate somewhere around three or four months.

We have to go through a solicitation process, and then bring in a design team or most likely a design build team before we start doing design work on that. And when we start doing design work, we will be doing public outreach and ensuring that we are getting viewpoints from the people in the area.

Councilwoman Whitehead: Okay. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Thank you. We are ready to vote. Please record your vote. Okay. We are unanimous.

Thank you for your patience, and we will continue with our meeting. We have the second opportunity for public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

[Time: 01:06:54]

Seeing none, I will close the public comment.

CITIZEN PETITIONS

Moving on the question of citizen petitions, an opportunity per our charter for petitions to be presented. None were left with the Clerk. Therefore, that item is closed.

WORK STUDY SESSION

[Time: 01:07:14]

Next, we will go to a Work Study Session. It provides a less formal setting for the Mayor and Council to discuss specific topics with each other and city staff. There's also an opportunity for us to receive public comment from up to five individuals. There's no request to speak from the public. Therefore, I will open and close public comment after you make your presentation.

Accordingly, we have Dave Bennett to present an initiative called Food Waste Diversion Initiative at City Venues. The presenter is Dave Bennett, Solid Waste Services Director. Good to see you, Dave.

[Time: 01:07:49]

Solid Waste Services Director Dave Bennett: Good to see you, Mayor. I'm here to speak to the work study staff did on food waste at city-owned venues. Oops. Let me scroll.

A little background on how we progressed to this point. On August 16th, 2023, the Scottsdale Environmental Advisory Committee, SEAC provided a letter of recommendation to Council regarding food waste diversion at city-owned venues. The letter cited a study in 2021, that says Arizona is number one in the country in terms of the highest share of food wasted and the lowest amount of food recycled. It also ranks Arizona third lowest in the amount of donated food. The letter also stated in Scottsdale, about 94% of the organic or food waste generated ends up in the landfill instead of being consumed or composted.

At the September 19, 2023, City Council meeting, Council directed the City Manager to agendize this item for discussion, and possible direction at a future meeting. Soon after that, the City Manager basically gave us our Marching orders. From October of last year to May of this year, a committee comprised of leadership from WestWorld, Scottsdale Stadium and Scottsdale Arts analyzed event waste at three city-owned venues.

Mayor and Council, the venues this committee analyzed are WestWorld, Scottsdale Stadium, and the Civic Center. As you are all as you are all aware each of these venues are very different and unique from each other, together they hold 300 plus events and attract approximately 1.5 million visitors each year. What the committee learns what the committee learns from these three venues may be applied to other city facilities in the future.

In total the committees' studies 15 events at the three venues. The committee chose a couple of events, those being an event that best represents a typical event held at each venue throughout the year. And a large event that attracts the most visitors and food vendors. Examples of a large event are the Barret Jackson Car Auction, and a weekend spring training game. Regarding the type of research that we conducted at each of these events, the work was pretty straightforward, a committee member would ask a food venter 11 scripted questions, while another committee member would sort through the trash, containers located in and around the

vendor's booth. Trash sorting continued throughout the event, and concluded once the vendor booths were closed and empty.

[Time: 01:11:09]

WestWorld was the first venue the committee looked at. It's the largest facility of the three venues. Good news to report here, we found minimal amounts of food waste at this facility. Reasons why? Most everything is cooked to order. This practice saves the vendors money. And the consumers are consuming the food they purchase. Leftover food is either donated to staff to take home or exchanged between the vendors. When we did find food waste in the trash containers, it was at a large event. During the post event cleanup, some food vendors explained to us they might see a large amount of business and anticipate food to meet the demand.

Moving along to Scottsdale Stadium, good news to report here as well. We found minimal amounts of food waste at their outdoor events. Most of the food vendors here do practice cook to order and their consumers are consuming their customers are consuming the food they purchase as well. Vendors here also don't also donate their leftover food to staff members and take and to other vendors as well. As with WestWorld and for the same reason, we did encounter small amounts of post-event food wastes at their larger outdoor events.

Scottsdale Stadium does host quite a few indoor events. And this is where we found moderate amounts of food waste. Most events that do everybody food either served buffet style or by plated service. Buffet style and plated corporate events is where we identified the largest opportunity to capture consumer and vendor food waste. The vendor for these for these indoor events did tell us that they do that they do their best to order and cook the correct amount of food as this will save them money and help their bottom line. However, the guest counts provided to these vendors are usually inflated and this is the main reason for waste at these events. As with WestWorld, this vendor does allow staff to take leftover food home, but it's clear some of the food is still making its way into the trash containers.

The same could be said for Civic Center. At smaller events, we found very little food waste. Almost everything is cooked to order, and their customers are consuming the food they purchase. Events where meals are served buffet or by plated service, we found the best food waste. As with the other two venues, the vendors are donating this food, the leftover food to their staff to take home or exchanged between the vendors.

The committee did look at solutions to reduce food waste. The first solution was reducing food waste at the source. This one is a challenge. Since the food vendors are already doing their best to manage their food their best to manage their food purchases and how much they prepare for each event. As they continue to remind us, it's in their best interest to do so. One area the committee will explore is looking into the guest counts provided at the corporate events. This might be some opportunities for improvement or new ideas. The committee did investigate

food donation, as I mentioned earlier at present the only donation practices taking place are letting staff take leftover food home or exchanging it with other vendors.

[Time: 01:15:02]

For liability reasons, vendors that provide buffet style or plated meal services are hesitant to donate leftover food. A few reasons for this are food waste that was already served to the public cannot be donated. Food storage, the concerns here are keeping track of how long the food has been out and having donated food picked up within a reasonable amount of time.

That being said, future opportunities for food donation could improve. Scottsdale Arts has started to collaborate with Waste Not, which is a nonprofit food bank and Vista Del Camino to bring leftover food from their plated events. Also, federal liability protection for food donation has increased. The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act that was originally passed in 1996 and amended by the Food Donation Improvement Act in 2022, provides increased liability protection for food donors, and the nonprofit organizations that receive and distribute food donations to those in need.

Regarding composting initiatives, for the past year, the city has been collaborating with a company that collects food waste at Scottsdale homes and their businesses. This company is now collecting food waste at Vista Del Camino, One Civic, the Design Studio and the North Corporation Yard. The company in question is called Recycled City. Recycled City has a 19-acre farm located in south central Phoenix, the material brought to this farm is composted and then used to grow fruits and vegetables.

Another solution the committee looked at was food dehydrators. At present, the city has three of these machines at One Civic, the Design Studio and the North Courtyard. The way they work is pretty simple, over an eight-hour period, the machine dries and grinds the food scraps into a compostable material, and it's picked up by Recycled City and used at their farm as well. The machines are designed for residential home and small businesses. This can hold they can hold up to 40 pounds of processed dehydrated foods, costs for residential unit vary from \$200 to \$1,000. Whereas the commercial food dehydrator can cost up to \$175,000, however, a commercial food dehydrator can process hundreds of pounds of food waste daily. Excuse me for a second. My apologies.

Mayor and Council, the committee leadership is asking Council for one for more time to research this matter. For the next 11 months, the committee would like to conduct a pilot project at the three venues. During the pilot project, we will now collect and divert food waste destined to be landfilled at 40 plus events. In doing so, are the committee will gather the necessary information needed to provide a staff recommendation to Council this time next year.

Mayor and Council, I would like to conclude that noting all vendors and individuals we spoke with at the three venues support efforts to reduce food waste in our landfills, however, they

express concerns about solutions that might increase vendor food costs which would ultimately be passed on to the consumers. If you permit the committee to conduct a pilot project, please be assured that the committee leadership is aware of this concern and will try to find a solution that addresses it effectively.

Mayor and Council, before I take any of your questions, I want to first thank the committee. We have Gina Azima from Solid Waste, Lisa McNeilly helped as well. Gerd Wuestemann, very positive about this. He was a big help at Scottsdale Arts. Nick Molinari oversees WestWorld and Scottsdale Stadium was a big help on this along with the people at Scottsdale Stadium, Chris Walsh, Kyle Urban and then the people at WestWorld, Katie Gregory and Larry Gimple. And with that Mayor and Council, I'll be happy to answer any questions. Thank you very much.

Mayor Ortega: Excellent. Thank you very much. We have Councilwoman Whitehead and Councilman Graham and then Councilwoman Janik.

[Time: 01:19:42]

Councilwoman Whitehead: Good job Mr. Bennett and everybody. This is exciting, because food waste does nobody any good when it feeds the landfill and does everybody in this community a lot of good when it's going back to a local farm and growing veggies and fruits. So that's pretty cool. And it's and it's important that we realize that we're not generating that much food waste. You know, it's good to know where we have the needs and where we don't. Vista Del Camino, that's new since I spoke with you. That's very good and I know there's some food waste at Granite Reef. Do we have how did the stadium we did some food waste with the team, with the San Francisco Giants. Did that go over well?

Dave Bennett: It did. It went over very well. They have actually they kind of kept up with those practices at some of their smaller plated events. So, they are utilizing Recycled City as we speak.

Councilwoman Whitehead, oh, that's great. I will say that the San Francisco Giants in San Francisco, they compost and recycle and so it was really important when I spoke with their Vice President that they have the same type of services here. So, thank you for making that happen. But, yeah, so I'm very much supportive of moving forward. I love the fact and it's obvious what should be done that the most efficient thing that these vendors can do is trade with each other and give it to their employees. That's awesome and that's just common sense. I'm glad it's happening. Thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Okay. Vice Mayor Graham and then Councilman Janik.

[Time: 01: 21:20]

Vice Mayor Graham: Thank you, Mayor. Dave, great presentation. In your just a few quick questions for you. In your close studies maybe when you come back to us, what percentage this

will increase the costs of events. And that's going to be paid by taxpayers is. That's going to be paid by ticket buyers, ticket purchasers, we want to be able to tell people what their costs how much their costs are going to go up or if we have to send taxpayers a bill for this. As you study it, that'd be, that's kind of basic information. I'm sure you're looking at that already.

It's kind of a general question, but is there any benefit to allowing organic food to just go to the landfills with the rest of the trash as far as mixing organic and inorganic food? Is there any benefit to that or is diversion the ultimate?

Dave Bennett: Mayor and Councilman Graham, yeah, I'm not I'm not an expert on that subject. I do know that, you know, with greenhouse gases, that's where they cite that the potential environmental impacts are going to be with methane released from food waste.

Vice Mayor Graham: They will break down somewhere so I just curious about that because maybe there's some chemical reaction with the rest of the refuse if we could just look at that. The, I would be very curious in I'm interested in not just gross greenhouse gas reduction but net because this is going to require resource, we're going to have to marshal resources to corral this, put it together. We are going to haul trucks back and forth. So, people residents want to know what the greenhouse gas. Cause to do this, we will have to emit greenhouse gases to complete it so that's something that's interesting to know. What is the cost of the pilot program that you are proposing?

[Time: 01: 23:24]

Dave Bennett: Current estimates and keep in mind, sorry Councilmember Graham, Mayor. The estimates are around \$25,000, probably less than that. Majority of that is for the disposal cost and for the containers. We are putting 5-gallon containers at the WestWorld booths with the compostable liners.

Vice Mayor Graham: How new is the diversion technology is that I'm just curious proven that is and how time tested the technology and the whole process is. I just wanted to ask you on the record, how confident are you?

Dave Bennett: Mayor and Councilmember Graham, be more specific about that.

Vice Mayor Graham: We are taking the food waste and diverting it to a specific process, how proven is this process turnaround time to reuse, repurpose it? The whole process, I'm just I wanted to hear from you how proven and time tested that is. How confident you are? Because we are doing a pilot test.

Dave Bennett: Mayor and Councilmember Graham. Yes, that's correct. That will be during the pilot study, and I could look into that if you want to maybe send that to the committee your question.

Vice Mayor Graham: It would be helpful to know because we're not experts in this technology. Or at least we shouldn't claim to be and so that information from your expertise would be helpful.

Dave Bennett: The technology that is proven is the compostable side of it and the food dehydrators. That is what...

Vice Mayor Graham: So, the rest is still coming along.

Dave Bennett: Councilman Graham, I don't know what the rest of it is.

Vice Mayor Graham: Okay. Thank you.

Dave Bennett: You're welcome.

Mayor Ortega: Councilwoman Janik and then Whitehead.

[Time: 01:25:08]

Councilwoman Janik: Thank you, Mayor. Thank you. Very nice presentation. I just want to point out that when there is organic contamination in our standard recycle materials, it releases quite a bit of methane into the atmosphere, and it also causes fires. So, to clean up our recyclables and get rid of that organic matter is very significant and I'm sure there's I've seen data on it that can prove the point.

Okay, the next thing is the purpose of the study is to see what is out there and see if the results validate doing this in the future. And you don't when you go into an experiment, which is what this is, you don't presuppose what your results are, because then you are faking your data. You go in to analyze it objectively. This is what's currently available. This is what we're going to try. And darn it, we're hoping that it works. And maybe we're in the forefront, but maybe we're not there yet and that's the purpose of experiment. So don't presuppose what the results will be that's why you do this.

And lastly, I believe with all the advances we have seen in organic waste in recycling, this is the right time and right place and I'm hoping we get positive results. I thought I read on the slide that July 2025, is when this experiment should be able to give us some pretty good results. July 2025, okay, thank you, very nice. I'm glad that you have the foresight to say, hey, let's look at this. I think it is the right time. And I wish you well. So thanks.

[Time: 01:27:07]

Mayor Ortega: I have just a few comments. There's an entire industry based on biofuels. And biofuels propel probably a significant number of trucking companies and it's a great substitute for foreign oil and lots of other things, because it's available within our own communities. So there's an entire industry. I think what's going to happen is we just broke open into a lot of good summer reading, Vice Mayor. There will be a lot of things that we can look into that will be very good for us as a whole. One thing that was striking of course, we are just looking within our own households, so to speak, the city's operations and aspirations. Vendors don't want to lose money and be throwing away tons of food and then who gets stuck with it? Well, we are the ones who end up having to haul it away and incur all of those costs as well.

So, there's a good economy in this intention, as well as even for households, and I think when we saw the waste discussion, people were saying most households waste 30% or so of some of their fresh fruits and vegetables and other things like that. So, buying the right amount is smarter for your pocketbook. So, it will come down to a good study, and we I do support it and I could like to conclude this Work Study. I think you started with, oh, excuse me, Councilwoman Whitehead.

[Time: 01:28:46]

Councilwoman Whitehead: I did want to answer thank you, Mayor. I wanted to answer some of Vice Mayor Graham's questions. So does food waste and compost in the landfill. Landfills are toxic and they fill up. So, any cost study has to include tipping fees which are increasing; is that correct?

Dave Bennett: Councilwoman Whitehead, yes, that's correct.

Councilwoman Whitehead: So, tipping fees are going up, just like water costs are going up and just like electricity costs are going up because the supply for putting food waste in the landfill or anything in the landfill is going down dramatically, but if food waste were a country it would be the third largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world behind United States and China. So is food waste in a landfill a good thing? No, it is not.

But I also want to point out that the key is to find out and whether the food waste goes to a local farm or whether it goes to the landfill, you are still going to have a vehicle that takes it there. So absolutely, Vice Mayor Graham is correct, there's always an impact. But an apple traveling around the world three times has a tremendous impact on our environment in so many ways and our health. So growing food locally also minimizes our footprint and fresh veggies and fruits are healthier for us. So, I don't think I think our accountant here down the way likes to have everything in a little box. I get it, Mr. Graham, but this is when we look at a circular economy we have to take in a lot of different factors. But certainly, I also thought that years ago but food waste in a landfill is not a good thing and I did, and the Mayor mentioned biofuel. Phoenix metro area has the largest sewer gas to biofuel production in the country down at

91st Scottsdale is part of that. So, again, we're taking something sewer gas and turning it into energy. So, I think that the Arizona and specifically the valley is doing a lot to turn waste into something productive. And food waste reduces the amount of water that we need to use on a farm. It just has so many benefits. But we don't want to truck a few twinkies and that's what the study is for, where we need compost study and where we don't. So, thank you.

Mayor Ortega: Well, thank you one and all. We have concluded the Work Study item, and we will be on recess starting Tuesday. I would like a motion to adjourn.

Councilwoman Whitehead: So moved.

Councilwoman Janik: Second.

Councilmember Durham: Second.

Mayor Ortega: Motion and a second. Please record your vote. We are adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

[Time: 01:31:33]