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Saturday, January 21, 2017

State of the City

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## **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was held in Souers Hall at The Church at Litchfield Park and called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Mayor Thomas L. Schoaf.

***Members Present:*** Mayor Schoaf; Vice-Mayor Faith; Council Members Blake, Donahue, Mahoney, Raible and Romack.

## **II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Schoaf led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **III. State of the City - Welcome by Mayor Thomas L. Schoaf**

Mayor Schoaf welcomed residents to the State of the City event, noting the recent passing of City Manager, Darryl Crossman and indicated that Mr. Crossman had indeed been instrumental in all of the accomplishments of the City for the past twelve years. He advised that information for Mr. Crossman's upcoming memorial service was available at the reception table and on the City website for those who might be interested.

## **III. Introduction of City Council Members**

The Mayor introduced the City Council Members noting that Ms. Ann Donahue was newly elected and a great addition to Council.

## **IV. Introduction of Former Mayors and City Council Members**

The Mayor welcomed Buckeye Mayor Jackie Meck and former Litchfield Park Council Members Marcia Ellis and Paul Stucky. He thanked them for their service to the community.

## **V. Introduction of Citizen Commissions & Boards**

Mayor Schoaf also reviewed each of the Citizen Commission and Board Members, noting that they, like Council, volunteer their time to serve the needs of the community. They are a direct link from the community and function to gather and advise City Council in that capacity.

## VII. State of the City Address

**2016 - A Year of Planning for 2017 and Beyond** is the theme of this year's State of the City. The Mayor provided a review of recent City accomplishments indicating that the City of Litchfield Park had been selected as a "Best Place to Live in Arizona".

- **Elections** - The Mayor reviewed the successful March 2016 Franchise Election APS and Southwest Gas. He indicated that the franchise renewal was necessary to allow the utilities to access City Rights-of-Way in order to provide service to our residents. He also reviewed the recent activity during the August Primary and November General Elections. City Staff served more than 2,600 voters during these elections. Due to the overwhelming turnout, he advised that City Hall would no longer serve as an early voting site and encouraged residents to sign up for the permanent early voting list and vote by mail.
- **Development** – The Mayor commented on the status of Litchfield Marketplace, Cachet Homes and Sunset Terrace. Both developers are bringing more quality homes to the area.
- **Tierra Verde Lake** - He noted that the Tierra Verde Lake project was nearing completion and the annual Trout Derby would be held as scheduled.
- **Perimeter Wall** - The first phase of the Camelback Road perimeter wall is nearing completion and the bid process for the next section has been posted.
- **Crane Plume** - He advised that the Crane Plume, EPA Superfund site, report data indicates that the plume has been contained and that the wells serving our residents are protected from those contaminants.
- **City Parks** - He reviewed recent and upcoming improvements in City parks and pointed out that the Recreation Center had recently received an award from the West Valley Arts Council for the public art that had been installed near the pool entrance.
- **Finance** - He provided an update on the City's revenue and expenditures, pointing out the declining trend of construction sales tax revenue, which is a substantial piece of overall City revenue, and advised that as the City is built out, that revenue stream will nearly be eliminated.

He advised that the City is working to encourage development of retail properties to build the retail sales tax sector. He pointed out the spike seen in the expenditure trends and explained this was related to the acquisition of the property now included in the City Center planning.

He noted that the City's financial health and growth has been balanced with protecting the character and quality of life in our neighborhoods. The upcoming development of the City Center will be no different. He provided a brief history and noted the importance of the recent land acquisition that will allow the City to maintain a controlled, well-planned process.

He advised those in attendance to subscribe to the City website updates and to stay informed as there will be multiple opportunities for the public to provide input into the City Center development process. The cornerstone of the process will be based on community input.

### VIII. Introduction of City Staff

Interim City Manager, Sonny Culbreth, thanked not only the staff members of Litchfield Park, but also the cooperating agencies who were hosting the information tables and those who coordinated the refreshments for those attending.

He provided a brief overview of each of the City departments and noted that many of the employees have significant tenure with the City, which contributes to the quality of service to the community. He applauded the contributions and dedication of the workforce.

### IX. Council Remarks

**Council Member Blake** thanked former Council Member Paul Stucky for his service to the community. He also remembered Darryl Crossman for his service and dedication to the community, noting that his passing leaves a great void in the hearts and minds of all those he had touched. He asked that those present, keep Mr. Crossman's family in prayers.

**Council Member Mahoney** advised that he had flown to Ohio to attend the memorial service held for Mr. Crossman in his former community. Every person there had the same depth of admiration for Mr. Crossman, as we, here in Litchfield Park do. He will be missed by many. Mr. Mahoney also noted the improvements in sales tax revenues and encouraged residents to continue to shop locally.

**Council Member Donahue** welcomed those in attendance and thanked the voters for their support. She is excited to serve the community in this new capacity and sees herself as a liaison from the community to Council and encouraged anyone to write, email, call or stop her in the parking lot. She is here to listen and learn and hopes to continue to make Litchfield Park the most livable and lovable community in the land. She also announced that the Litchfield Elementary School District Foundation will be selling memorial bricks for the historical path being placed in honor of the centennial celebration.

**Council Member Romack** also welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending this annual event. He noted that he had received advice in the past on public speaking, "Have a good

opening, a good closing, and keep them close together.” He thanked both Sonny Culbreth and Brian Goodman, who are exemplary City staff, for stepping into needed roles and for taking on significant workloads to accomplish the mission.

**Council Member Raible** thanked Council Member Donahue for coming on board, as he now has “seniority”. He reminded those who have not recently visited the Historical Society Museum that exhibits are changed every six months and there is always something new to see. He noted that it is also managed by volunteer staff and tells the great story of our community. Centennial medallions are also being sold at this location to raise additional funding. He pointed to his water container, informed the audience that it is tap water and reiterated that our tap water is safe to drink due to aggressive containment efforts. He continued with a brief overview of the current process to convert pollutants to benign substances at the Crane Plume site.

**Vice Mayor Faith** memorialized City Manager, Darryl Crossman as a friend, a neighbor, and accomplished City Manager for the past twelve years. He welcomed Council Member Donahue, thanked former Council Member Stucky for his service, and thanked all of City Council for their support and confidence in appointing him to his seventh term as Vice Mayor. He also thanked Mayor Schoaf for handling the most difficult volunteer job serving as Mayor.

## **X. Public Questions**

**Mr. Len Kirschner** spoke regarding the Mayor’s outline of revenues and the declining construction sales tax revenue. He also noted the trends affecting State Shared Revenues and was concerned that possibly an alternative revenue stream, such as property tax might need to be a future option to replace the other revenues.

**Mr. Judd Souers** spoke in memory of Darryl Crossman. He viewed Mr. Crossman as the heart and soul of this community, a neighbor, a friend, a man of faith with great courage. He stated Darryl inspired all who knew him.

## **XI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 AM.

APPROVED:

**CITY OF LITCHFIELD PARK**

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Thomas L. Schoaf, Mayor  
/crr

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the special meeting of the City Council of the City of Litchfield Park held on **Saturday, January 21, 2017**.

I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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Carla Reece, MMC, City Clerk