

**MINTUES  
AIRWAY HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL  
STUDY SESSION**

**Monday, July 13, 2015**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Community Center – Council Chambers  
13120 W. 13<sup>TH</sup> Avenue, Second Floor  
(Please power down or silence your cell phones for meeting)**

**CALL TO ORDER:** by Mayor Rushing at 5:30 PM

**ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Patrick Rushing	P
Deputy Mayor Kevin Richey	P
Steve Lawrence	P
Jack Collins	P
Tanya Dashiell	A(arrive 6:20)
Doyle Inman	A
Dave Malet	A(arrive 5:35)

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Attorney Stanley Schwartz, Acting City Manager/Police Chief Lee Bennett, Fire Chief Mitch Metzger, Development Services Director Derrick Braaten, Public Works Director Ross Dunfee, Clerk Treasurer Amy Wiedrich, Executive Assistant Daneka Keith. City Manager Albert Tripp arrived approximately 5:35 PM.

**Motion by Councilmember Collins to excuse the absence of Councilmember Inman, Councilmember Malet and Councilmember Dashiell, seconded by Deputy Mayor Richey. Motion approved unanimously, 4-0.**

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** Motion by Deputy Mayor Richey to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilmember Collins. Motion approved unanimously, 4-0.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:** Mayor Rushing commented that he will be flying with Col. McDaniel from FAFB to Travis AFB early next week. He further commented that he would wait to discuss the events over the weekend during executive session.

**BREAK OUT SESSION:** None

DISCUSSION LEADER	SUBJECT/ACTIVITY/TIME	ACTION/NON-ACTION	COUNCIL SPONSOR
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A. Development Services/Braaten	Public Hearing on Medical Cannabis	Action <b>Moved to legislative session July 20, 2015.</b>	Mayor Rushing
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B. Fire/Metzger	Interlocal Agreement – Traffic Signal Preemption For Flint Road and Hwy 2	Action Moved to legislative session July 20, 2015.	Councilmember Collins
C. Public Works/Dunfee	City Engineer Job Description	Action Item moved to second study session for discussion on July 27, 2015.	Deputy Mayor Richey
D. Executive/Tripp	2 <sup>nd</sup> Read Salary Ordinance C-858	Action Moved to legislative session July 20, 2015.	Deputy Mayor Richey
E. Public Works/Dunfee	Resolution 2015-007 Water Conservation Month	Action Moved to legislative session July 20, 2015.	Councilmember Lawrence

**STAFF REPORTS:**

- Mr. Schwartz – No report
- Chief Bennett – No report
- Mr. Dunfee – No report
- Chief Metzger – No report
- Ms. Wiedrich – No report
- Mr. Braaten – No report

Ms. Keith reported that the survey results for input regarding the city logo was closed last Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. She plans to compile the data for review and discussion at the study session on July 27, 2015.

Deputy Mayor Richey made a motion to open the meeting to public comment, seconded by Councilmember Collins. Motion approved unanimously, 5-0.

Public comment was given by Matthew Pederson who expressed grave concerns regarding the current representation of the city. He was traveling last weekend and began to receive several text messages regarding inflammatory and racist statements made by Mayor Rushing on Facebook. Even more offensive, he felt, was the cavalier attitude of the Mayor when questioned by the media. Mr. Pederson stated he was ashamed, saddened and hurt. Belittling females and minorities does not represent Airway Heights. He has great concern about what does the city value? He called for the resignation of Mayor Rushing with an apology. Mayor Rushing replied to Mr. Pederson’s remarks, “Not happening. I will not step down. I have apologized, but they (media) did not show that part of the interview.”

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Executive session was called in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1) by Mr. Schwartz to begin at 6:22 PM for 20 minutes, following a short recess to await the arrival of Councilmember Dashiell. The

cause for executive session is to discuss performance of a public official; to return at 6:42 PM. At 6:42 PM the executive session was extended for 10 minutes to return at 6:52 PM.

(f) To receive and evaluate complaints or charges brought against a public officer or employee. However, upon the request of such officer or employee, a public hearing or a meeting open to the public shall be conducted upon such complaint or charge.

Executive Session returned at 6:52 PM and the following council comments were made:

Deputy Mayor Richey commented that the statements made by Mayor Rushing were not reflective of the values of Airway Heights and that he was disappointed in the Mayor. Deputy Mayor Richey requested that Mayor Rushing step down.

Councilmember Collins commented that he has been approached multiple times by citizens. He agrees with Deputy Mayor Richey and the comments made don't represent what he stands for. He is also asking that the Mayor step down.

Councilmember Dashiell requested that Mayor Rushing resign because we need to hold ourselves to a higher standard. This is not reflective of the community, the council or the staff.

Councilmember Malet agrees the comments are not reflective of the council or staff and the city in no way supports the Mayors actions.

Councilmember Lawrence commented that he has lived in Airway Heights longer than anyone here. The city has worked hard to improve the reputation and this will be difficult to come back from.

Mayor Rushing indicated that he appreciated the comments from council. He said the comment was "completely out of character" for him and was simply banter between good friends. He further stated he will not step down. He has worked over 16 years for the city and will continue to work hard for economic development of Airway Heights. He will work to regain the trust of the residents and council and "get past this".

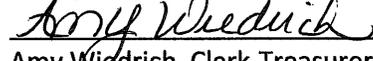
Deputy Mayor Richey made a motion to direct the city attorney to draft a resolution expressing the concerns and dissatisfaction with the Mayor and possible sanctions. Resolution to be brought back to council on the July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Collins. Motion passed 5-1 (in favor: Richey, Collins, Dashiell, Malet and Lawrence and opposed: Rushing).

**ADJOURN:** at 6:57 PM

APPROVED:

  
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Patrick D. Rushing, Mayor  
*ILEVIN RICHIE*

ATTEST:

  
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Amy Wiedrich, Clerk-Treasurer

**Note:** Unless otherwise noted above, there will be no public comments at Council Study Sessions. However, Council always reserves the right to request information from the public and staff as appropriate. During meetings held by the City of Airway Heights Council, the Council reserves the right to take "action" on any item listed or subsequently added to the agenda. The term "action" means to deliberate, discuss, review, consider, evaluate, or make a collective positive or negative decision.

**Notice:** Individuals planning to attend the meeting who require special assistance to accommodate physical, hearing, or other impairments, please contact the Clerk-Treasurer at (509) 244-5578 as soon as possible so that arrangements may be made.

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