



## COUNCIL MINUTES

June 25, 2012

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Study Session in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on June 25, 2012 at 5:05 p.m.

### COUNCIL PRESENT

Scott Smith  
Alex Finter  
Christopher Glover  
Dennis Kavanaugh  
Dave Richins  
Scott Somers\*

### COUNCIL ABSENT

Dina Higgins

### OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady  
Debbie Spinner  
Linda Crocker

Mayor Smith excused Councilwoman Higgins from the entire meeting.

(\*Vice Mayor Somers participated in the meeting via telephonic equipment.)

1. Review items on the agenda for the June 25, 2012 Regular and Special Council meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff and the following was noted:

Conflict of interest: None

Items removed from the consent agenda: None

Councilmember Glover requested that item 9-a (Amending Section 201(F) of the Mesa City Charter to state that if less than three (3) candidates file nominating petition, qualifying as candidate for the Office of Mayor or District Councilmember, the Primary Election would be dispensed with for that office and the candidate would appear on the ballot for the General Election) be moved on to the consent agenda.

Mayor Smith advised that item 9-a would be moved to the consent agenda.

2-a. Hear a presentation, discuss and provide direction on the 2012 Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Program.

Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities Director Marc Heirshberg displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 1**) and provided an update on the Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Program. He said that the presentation would include feedback received from the community with regards to the proposed projects.

Mr. Heirshberg advised that the original projects requested through the iMesa process totaled \$131 million. He stated that in an effort to provide meaningful projects for the community, staff scaled back and prioritized the projects into the following five categories:

- Park Conversion and Improvement Projects
- Community Partnership Projects
- iMesa Renovation and Enhancement Park Projects
- iMesa New Development Park Projects
- iMesa Bike and Pedestrian Path Projects

Mr. Heirshberg advised that Mesa Public Schools had declined participation in a plan for a regional pool at Mesa High School however, it was suggested that the existing site plan be used to renovate the Taylor pool. Mr. Heirshberg stated that renovating the Taylor pool would allow pool amenities to remain within the community and would accelerate the installation of a water feature at Pioneer Park.

Mayor Smith commented that renovating the Taylor pool would consist of tearing out the old pool and building a new one on the same property.

Mr. Heirshberg stated that the community has shown an increased interest with regards to existing park improvements. He said that the City's park properties included:

- 58 properties designated as parks
- 134 retention basins that serve as parks
- 144 acres of undeveloped land
- 57 playgrounds

Mr. Heirshberg advised that that the \$7 million that was originally proposed for improvements and replacements only addressed 16% of the overall need. He said that the cost to replace or improve the average 26 ½ year-old park equipment throughout the City would cost \$44 million.

Mr. Heirshberg recommended that an additional \$5,050,000 be directed towards existing park improvements for a total allocation of \$12,050,000. He noted that this allocation would still leave the City far from addressing all of its park needs however, it would be a step in the right direction. (See Page 4 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Heirshberg briefly highlighted the park conversion and improvement projects that would cost a total of \$7,250,000 to complete. He advised that City-owned vacant land would be developed into useable park spaces so that some of the federal encumbrances associated with the Riverview Park and the development of the Cubs Spring Training Facility could be removed. (See Page 5 of Attachment 1) He stated that vacant property at the following locations would meet the federal government land exchange requirements:

- Signal Butte Road/Elliot Road
- Medina Road/Hawes Road
- McDowell Road/Recker Road
- McKellips Road/Ellsworth Road

He advised that the Community Conversion Project and the West Mesa Sports Complex would be completed in cooperation with Mesa Public Schools and would convert school property into parks. He stated that the total cost to the City for the community partnership projects would be \$8,700,000 with total operations and maintenance (OM) costs of \$536,000. (See Page 6 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Heirshberg briefly touched upon some of the renovation and enhancement projects generated through the iMesa process. He stated that the total cost for all of the iMesa renovation and enhancement projects would be \$37,800,000, with OM costs of \$1,003,500. (See Page 7 of Attachment 1) He reported that the park projects generated through the iMesa process were as follows:

- Pioneer Park renovations (including installation of a water feature)
- Riverview Park enhancements (creating a showcase signature destination park)
- Kleinman Park renovation
- Museum and cultural resource expansion (federal building)
- Central Mesa pool
- Greenfield Park urban fishing lake
- Existing park improvements and enhancements

Mr. Heirshberg advised that new park projects suggested by Mesa residents included the acquisition of Buckhorn Baths, the expansion of Monterey Park and plans for a Downtown Urban Plaza. He said that the total cost for these projects would be \$10,730,000 with OM costs totaling \$274,200.

Director of Transportation Dan Cleavenger stated that three bike and pedestrian path projects had been proposed and would provide enhanced connections to transit and recreation around the City. He displayed a series of maps (See Pages 10 and 11 of Attachment 1) and provided a brief description of the proposed bike/pedestrian paths that would be located in the following areas:

- Riverview/Rio Salado
- West Mesa Connector
- Southeast Mesa Projects

Mr. Cleavenger reported that the total cost to build the bike/pedestrian paths would be \$5,500,000. He stated that based on the feedback received staff proposed that the City design and build the first two bike/pedestrian projects. He said that federal funding for these projects would continue to be explored.

Councilmember Richins commented that there could be funding left over from Air Quality Mitigation funds that could be used for "shovel ready" projects.

Mr. Heirshberg displayed a map that illustrated the location of all the proposed Parks and Recreation projects throughout the City. (See Page 12 of Attachment 1)

Responding to a question from Councilmember Kavanaugh, Mr. Heirshberg explained that requests had been received from residents for projects such as shade structures, water and irrigation improvements, lighting, playground replacements, increased turf and xeriscaping. He said that all of the requests received were included in the proposal.

Mr. Heirshberg reported that it would take four years and \$70 million to complete all of the projects. He stated that if bonds were used to pay for the projects the average Mesa homeowner would pay \$24.84 annually or \$2.07 per month. He advised that draft ballot language had been prepared and this item could be placed on the next meeting's agenda to approve a resolution that would place the bonds on the November 6<sup>th</sup> election ballot. He added that staff would continue to explore funding options.

Mayor Smith clarified that the estimated annual cost to homeowners was based on the assumption that all of the projects would be paid for with bonds. He said that there could be grants available to help pay for some of the projects and the City may sell property to help cover some of the costs.

Mayor Smith stated that based on a consensus of the Council this item would be placed on the agenda for the July 2, 2012 Council meeting.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that staff would prepare detailed information regarding the financial impact the bond would have on homeowners and businesses in the community.

Mayor Smith expressed his appreciation for staff's efforts and for integrating the suggestions received from the community into the plans. He said that these investments were necessary to build a great community.

3. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of various boards and committees.

3-a. Transportation Advisory Board meeting held May 15, 2012.

It was moved by Councilmember Glover, seconded by Councilmember Kavanaugh, that the above-listed minutes of various boards and committees be acknowledged.

4. Hear reports on meetings and/or conferences attended.

Councilmember Kavanaugh: Celebrate Mesa at Pioneer Park  
Arizona Museum for Youth – Adopt a Pet Day

5. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, June 26, 2012, 9:00 a.m. – Fiesta Police Department Substation Groundbreaking

Thursday, June 28, 2012, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Friday, June 29, and Saturday, June 30, 2012, 6:00 p.m. – Arizona Celebration of Freedom

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

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SCOTT SMITH, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2012. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

bdw  
(attachments -1)

June 25, 2012

# Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Program – Follow Up Report



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Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities

# Mesa Proposed Projects

- Original requests generated by iMesa process accumulated a price tag of \$131 million
- Comments and feedback from the community formed priorities to phase project scopes and City will continue to seek community input on proposed projects
- Focusing on five areas:
  - Park Conversion and Improvement Projects
  - Community Partnership Projects
  - iMesa Renovation and Enhancement Park Projects
  - iMesa New Development Park Projects
  - iMesa Bike and Pedestrian Path Projects

## Additional Feedback Received

- *Continue community involvement for all projects*
- *Central Mesa Pool*
  - *Mesa Public Schools has declined participation for a regional pool at Mesa High School*
- *Increased interest in existing park improvements*
  - *Current Properties*
    - *58 properties designated as parks*
    - *134 retention basins that also serve a parks function*
    - *144 acres of undeveloped land*
    - *Average park age is 26.5 years*
  - *Playgrounds*
    - *57 playgrounds in the City*
    - *Average age is over 13 years old*
    - *24 playgrounds are more than 15 years old with one still operating that is 27 years old*

## Additional Feedback Received

- *Increased interest in existing park improvements (continued)*
  - *Needs*
    - *\$44 million in improvements or replacements needed in existing parks*
  - *Proposed Impact*
    - *Original proposal of \$7 million to fund improvements and replacements addresses 16% of overall need*
    - *Additional \$5,050,000 in allocation to existing park improvements to total \$12,050,000 addresses 27% of overall need*

## Park Conversion and Improvement Projects

*These projects will develop City-owned vacant land into useable park space and will meet the requirements of land exchange required with the Federal government*

- *Signal Butte/Elliott*
- *Medina/Hawes*
- *McDowell/Recker*
- *McKellips/Ellsworth*
- *TOTAL COST for PARK CONVERSION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS - \$7,250,000*
- *TOTAL OPERATIONS and MAINTENANCE COSTS - \$345,000*

## Community Partnership Projects

*These projects will be completed in cooperation with Mesa Public Schools to convert school properties into parks and a regional aquatic center*

- *Community Conversion Project*
- *West Mesa Sports Complex*
- *TOTAL CITY COST for COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS - \$8,700,000*
- *TOTAL CITY OPERATIONS and MAINTENANCE COSTS - \$536,000*

# Mesa Renovation and Enhancement Park Projects

*These projects were generated through the iMesa process and suggested by residents who recognized the need for renovation and enhancement to the existing parks system*

- *Pioneer Park Renovations*
- *Riverview Park Enhancements*
- *Kleinman Park Renovation*
- *Museum and Cultural Resource Expansion (Federal Building)*
- *Central Mesa Pool*
- *Greenfield Park Urban Fishing Lake*
- *Existing Park Improvements and Enhancements*
- **TOTAL COST for iMESA RENOVATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS – \$37,800,000**
- **TOTAL OPERATIONS and MAINTENANCE COSTS - \$1,003,500**

# Mesa New Park Development Projects

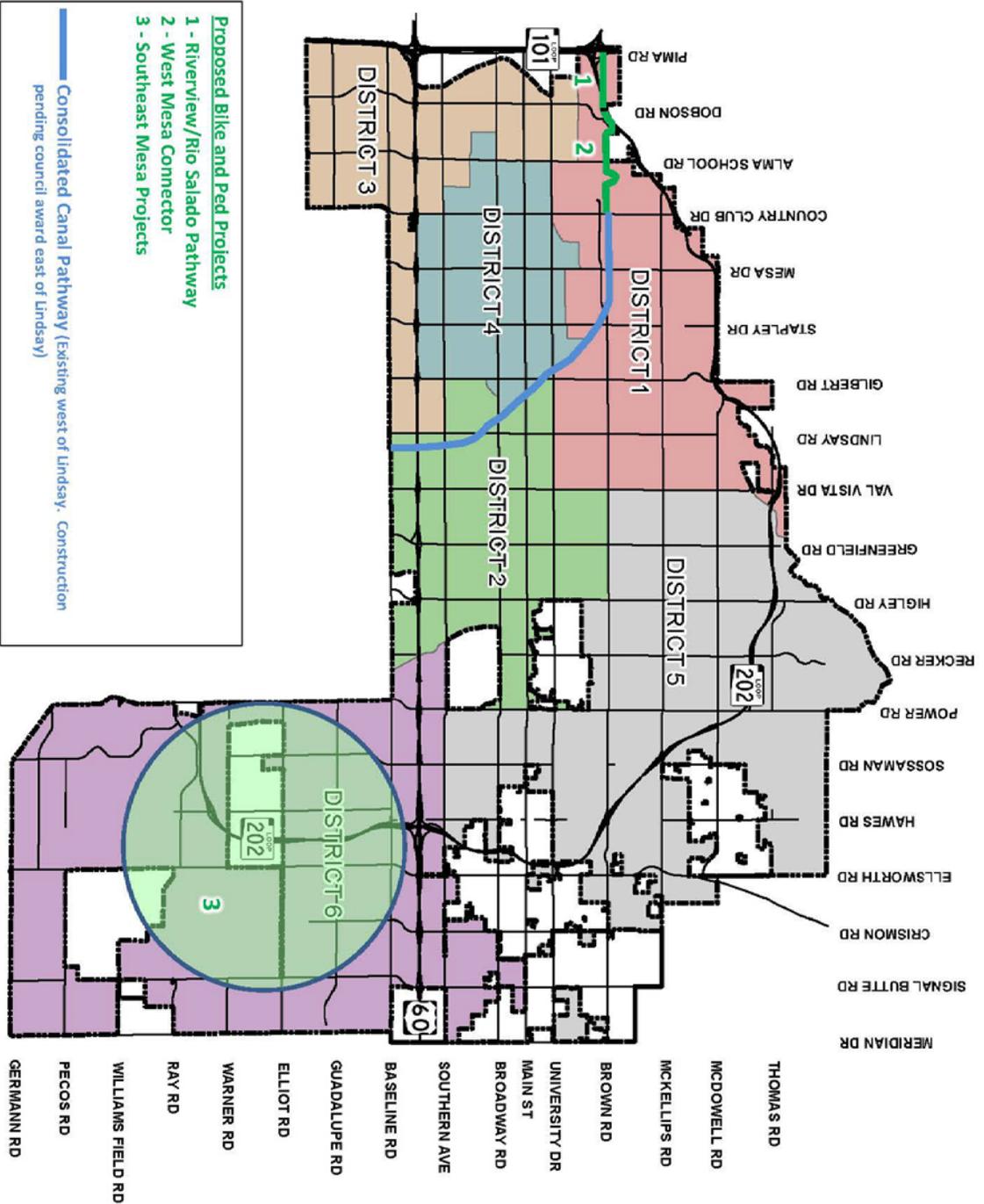
*These projects were generated through the iMesa process and suggested by residents who desire expansion of the Parks system to provide additional amenities*

- *Buckhorn Baths*
- *Monterey Park*
- *Downtown Urban Plaza*
- **TOTAL COST for iMESA NEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – \$10,750,000**
- **TOTAL OPERATIONS and MAINTENANCE COSTS - \$274,200**

## Mesa Bike and Pedestrian Paths

*These candidate projects will provide enhanced connections to neighborhoods, transit, and recreation opportunities. The projects include a concrete path, lighting, and basic landscaping.*

- *Riverview/Rio Salado*
- *West Mesa Connector*
- *Southeast Mesa Bike and Pedestrian Path Projects*
- **TOTAL COST FOR IMESA BIKE and PEDESTRIAN PATHS PROJECTS – \$5,500,000**
- **TOTAL OPERATIONS and MAINTENANCE COSTS – \$66,300**

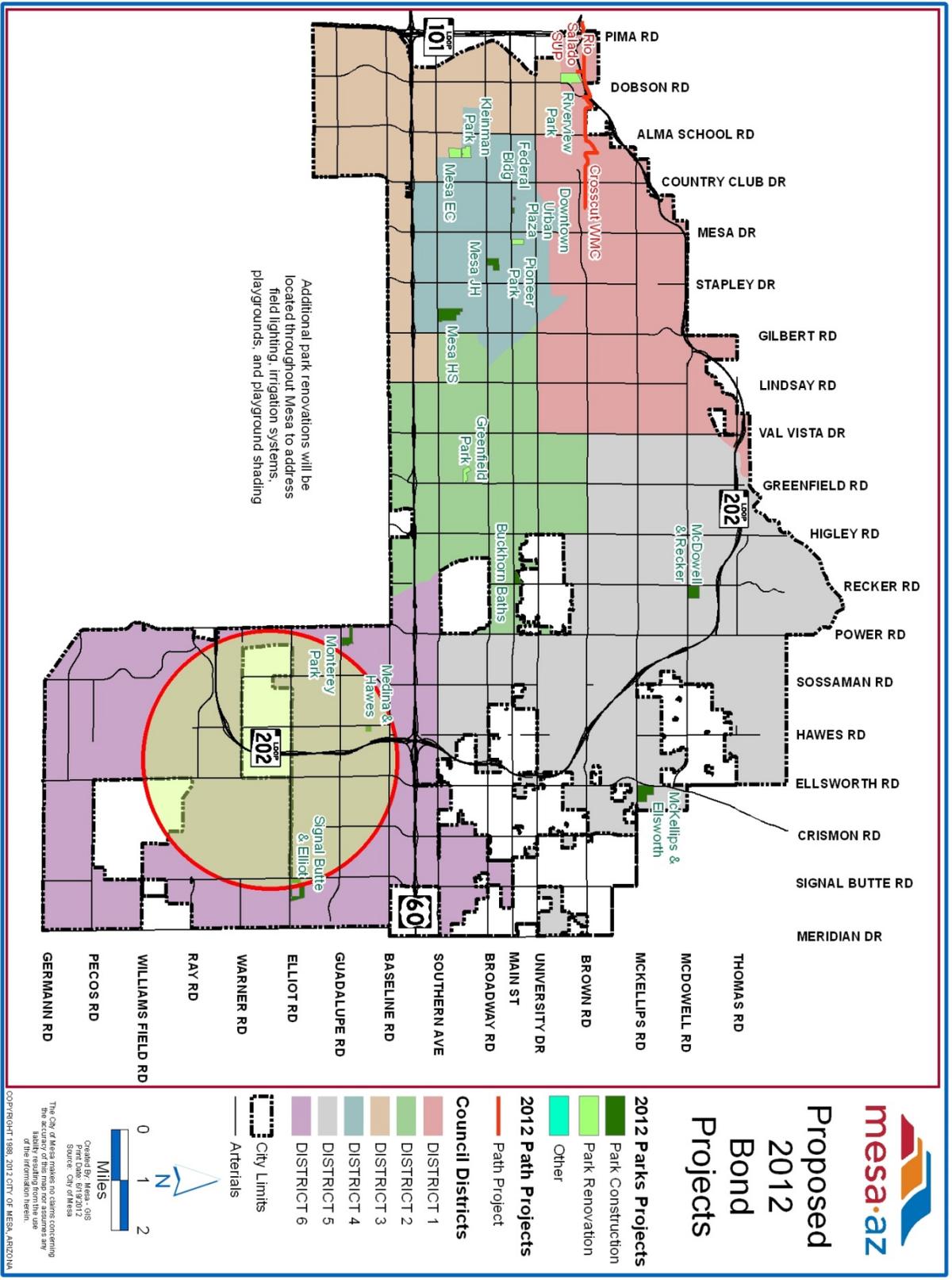


- Proposed Bike and Ped Projects**
- 1 - Riverview/Rio Salado Pathway
  - 2 - West Mesa Connector
  - 3 - Southeast Mesa Projects
- Consolidated Canal Pathway (Existing west of Lindsay. Construction pending council award east of Lindsay)**



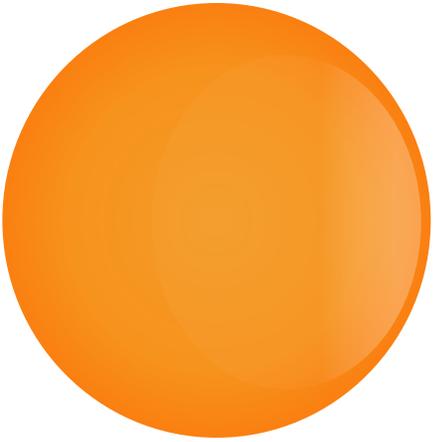
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## Summary

- *Total Project Costs - \$70,000,000*
- *Total Operations and Maintenance Costs - \$2,225,000 (phased in over the next 3-4 years)*
- *Completion Time Frame – 4 years*
- *Annual Cost per Average Assessed Property Value – \$24.84 or \$2.07 a month*
- *Schedule –*
  - *Today - Draft Resolution provided for review and consideration*
  - *July 2, 2012 - Council Meeting call for Election*
  - *November 6, 2012 – Election*



**QUESTIONS?**