

**CITY OF ESCONDIDO
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
8:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2011
CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS, ESCONDIDO
STATE OF THE CITY
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Escondido, California, was called to order on Wednesday, February 16, 2011 at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido with Mayor Abed presiding.

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Richard Bridgman, Emmanuel Faith Community Church, gave the Invocation. Escondido Police & Fire Department Color Guard presented the flag salute.

ATTENDANCE

The following members were present: Councilmember Olga Diaz, Councilmember Ed Gallo, Councilmember Mike Morasco, Deputy Mayor Marie Waldron and Mayor Sam Abed. Quorum present.

RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY AND STAFF

The following employees were acknowledged for their service to the City of Escondido.

<i>Jim Maher</i>	30 years
<i>Jeffery Epp</i>	25 years
<i>Bob Benton</i>	25 years
<i>John Mougier</i>	25 years

Escondido City Council Awards were presented by Mayor Abed and members of the Council to the following:

<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Category</u>
<i>Jean Will</i>	<i>Arts</i>
<i>Kevin & Eddie Grangetto</i>	<i>Business</i>
<i>Escondido Fire Dept. Sr. Volunteers</i>	<i>Charity</i>
<i>Bob & Arlene Shuster</i>	<i>Citizenship</i>
<i>John Loreda</i>	<i>Community Beautification</i>
<i>Sheila Barnett</i>	<i>Education</i>
<i>Monty Milani</i>	<i>Neighborhood Involvement</i>
<i>Jon Campbell</i>	<i>Service to Youth</i>
<i>Ryan Coates</i>	<i>Youth Leadership</i>

Recognition was given to the following Board and Commission members who retired during the past year.

Community & Older Adult Services Commission

Rose Flowers (School Rep).....1 year

Design Review Board

Cathrine Laguna.....2 years

Historic Preservation Commission

Brita Smith.....2 years

Cathrine Laguna.....4 years

Personnel Board of Review

Diane Yerkes.....6 years

Public Safety Facilities Oversight Committee

Darol Caster.....5 years

Jim Fraker.....4 years

Randy Goodman.....4 years

Larry Lynch.....6 years

Richard Marino.....6 years

Carl Skaja.....6 years

Mike Stein.....2 years

CITY COUNCIL REMARKS

Each Councilmember gave a brief presentation providing their vision for the future and highlighting the many amenities and reasons to be proud of our City.

MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Mayor Sam Abed noted the City's past accomplishments which included the opening of the state-of-the-art Police and Fire Headquarters, the Public Library renovation, replacement of the Reed Reservoir and Alexander Area Waterline and the opening of the Don Anderson Community Center Tiny Tots facility. Mayor Abed listed eight policy goals for the City:

Public Trust in City Government: Build trust by setting high ethical and moral standards; avoid special interests; share information with the community, host two public Town Hall meetings a year; and conduct an efficiency study.

Financial Recovery and Stability: Balance the budget; downsize and eliminate waste, outsource non-public safety functions; implement affordable employee benefits and pension program.

Economy and Job Creation: Establish an Economic Advisory Board to create jobs and attract new businesses; set high standards to improve the business environment; provide incentives to attract projects to Escondido, and make Downtown a destination for business and visitors.

Public Safety: Enforce gang injunctions; strengthen traffic safety check points; set zero tolerance policy against crime; and aggressively prosecute graffiti offenders.

Neighborhoods: Improve the environment through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program; proactively implement existing code enforcement ordinances; and restore pride of home ownership.

Demographics: Reduce Escondido’s poverty rate; reduce welfare, social services and dependency on government entitlement; and adopt the regional homeless solution as a model.

Immigration: Protect Escondido from being a Sanctuary City; address the impact of illegal immigration on our City; and support legal immigration.

Diversity and Outreach: Embrace diversity; engage the community to work towards common goals; and work together to lead Escondido to economic prosperity.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Abed adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK

MINUTES CLERK