

**CITY OF ESCONDIDO
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
8:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2013
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 20, 2013 at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido with Mayor Abed presiding.

WELCOME

City Manager, Clay Phillips, welcomed everyone to the annual State of the City address by Mayor Abed.

FLAG SALUTE

George Chamberlain, Financial Analyst, led the flag salute accompanied by the Police and Fire Department Color Guard.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

George Chamberlain introduced the Mayor and Councilmembers and noted numerous elected officials from other cities in attendance.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REMARKS

Brian Murphy, Chairman of the Board, reported on the Chamber of Commerce sponsored activities that were held in the city.

ATTENDANCE

The following members were present: Deputy Mayor Olga Diaz, Councilmember Ed Gallo, Councilmember Mike Morasco, Councilmember John Masson 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>Wilma Daubman</i>	25 years
<i>Joyce Masterson</i>	25 years
<i>Mike Lowry</i>	Service Award

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

<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Category</u>
<i>Alfredo Velasco</i>	Mayor's Award
<i>Karen Jobe</i>	Arts Education
<i>Daniel Hurd</i>	Business Leadership
<i>Julie Hurkman</i>	
<i>Victoria Muchek</i>	
<i>Arlene Whited</i>	Charity
<i>Jim Schneider</i>	Citizenship
<i>Rich Aeling</i>	Community Service
<i>The Hofstetter Family</i>	Diversity
<i>Corie DeAnda</i>	Education
<i>Scott Kolod</i>	Performing Arts
<i>Betty Lou Gibbs</i>	Youth

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

Building Advisory and Appeals Board
Edward Lehman.....10 years

Community Services Commission
Jo Anne Glese.....4 years
William Banning.....6.5 years
Jesse Longacre.....20.5 years

Historic Preservation Commission
Lucy Berk.....4 years

Library Board of Trustees
Diane Yerkes.....3.5 years

Personnel Board of Review
Yvon Dacayana.....4 years
Victoria De la Mora.....4 years
Tricia Moore.....4 year
William Banning.....6.5 years

Planning Commission
Don Yerkes.....2 years
Edward Lehman.....8 years
Jack Campbell.....11 years

Public Art Commission
Joan Irving.....7.5 years
Tim Alyea.....10 years
Tim Giblin.....16 years

Transportation & Community Safety Commission
Nick Ponce.....15 years

MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Mayor Abed noted the many accomplishments made in the past year including a balanced budget, pension reform, opening City Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and reopening the East Valley branch library as a technology and Internet center. He also cited the new Palomar Medical Center, Maple Street Plaza and the Nordahl Bridge project as major improvements in the city.

Mayor Abed listed four key areas to build the economy in 2013:

ECONOMIC GROWTH: Implement our Comprehensive Economic Development Master Plan; collaborate with North County mayors on our Regional Economic Plan; prepare our business park for development to accelerate job creation; develop a marketing plan to attract capital and promote Escondido; and establish proactive annexation policies for the new 500 acres approved by Prop N.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Continue to address Police and Fire staffing levels; maintain and strengthen existing police and fire policies; and expand targeted community policing to the entire urban core.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT: Develop an urban renewal plan to improve our aging neighborhoods; restore proactive code enforcement to improve city appearance; create a more vibrant and appealing Downtown; maintain and improve recreation facilities, programs and parks; and expand the city's collaboration with our 17 Neighborhood Groups.

FISCAL MANAGEMENT: Sound fiscal policy of a balanced budget and healthy reserve; increase of the city's reserve fund to 25% of the general fund; improvement city's bond rating and reduce the state pension debt; integrate new technology and innovation to improve efficiency and cut cost; and ask the City Council to resubmit the Charter City proposal to the voters.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Abed adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.


MAYOR


CITY CLERK


MINUTES CLERK