

MEDIA RELEASE – Douglas City Hall Repair & Remodeling Expenditures adopted with FY 2019-20 Budget

DOUGLAS, AZ (*December 26, 2019*) The City Council adopted the City's FY 2019-20 budget in July which included funding of \$25,000 for repairs and remodeling of City Hall. This was necessary in part due to the age of the facility, dating back to the 1960s.

Updating was made to the City Council Chambers, the executive conference room which has poor circulation and is uncomfortable particularly in warm months to hold meetings, as well as the reconfiguration of Development Services, Housing, Legal, Public Works Admin, Finance and Administration offices to create an area for City Hall staff, among other changes.

Office space for all elected officials was restored and City Councilmembers now have dedicated office space as had been provided in past years.

After requests for information for City credit card expenditures, purchase orders and other expense records of the City Manager, a member of the public has erroneously attributed an expense to a single item for the sole use of the City Manager which was not for her office. They also likely were unaware that a purchase order (P.O.) does not necessarily reflect the final amount spent, which was the case in this instance. Although this purchase was not for the City Manager, the purchase order was under the City Manager's public records request because it was initiated by the City Manager.

"The initial purchase order request totaling \$600 that has been called into question by a member of the public was attributed the City Manager's budget and was for the

purchase of three pieces of furniture: a small couch, side chair and corner table, for the reception area to the Mayor, Council and City Manager's shared suite of offices with an actual purchase price of \$400.76, not \$600," clarified Luis Pedroza, Management Services Director/City Treasurer.

"Per our procurement policies, purchases estimated to be over \$500 require a purchase order which may or may not result in that exact dollar amount being spent. The purchaser must not exceed the purchase order amount, but may come under the requested amount," Pedroza stated.

"Any confusion over this purchase being for a single \$600 chair for the Mayor, City Manager or City Councilmember offices is not accurate. In fact, the City Manager has made several purchases of public goods from her own pocket, one of which is a permanent fixture worth several hundred dollars that will remain with the City after she retires this summer. This is just one small way she has saved the City money," he said.

It is important that the public is informed of the facts of the City's budgeted expenditures and to be informed about the propriety in how money is spent and assured it was spent for the purpose in which it was intended when the Council adopted the City budget.

Additional questions may be referred to Management Services Director/City Treasurer Luis Pedroza at 520-417-7319, or, luis.pedroza@douglasaz.gov.

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