

Briannon Wilfong

RPA

City Hall Meeting Story

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Tucson, Ariz. – Pascua Yaqui Tribe agreement with the City of Tucson passed with a 7-0 vote at September 4 City Hall meeting.

This agreement holds details of the City of Tucson's and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe's responsibilities to that land. The land was recently bought by the Pascua Yaqui tribe.

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe bought the former Tucson 5 Drive-in, turned Century Park 16 theaters, in 2011 for \$4.65 million, records from the Pima County Recorder's Office show, as reported by the Arizona Daily Star.

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe will be using this land to construct a casino just a few steps away from the I-10. The casino will be fully on tribal land and managed by tribal government.

The City of Tucson held concerns about who would be responsible for emergencies and keep-up of the road and property.

Pascua Yaqui Chairman Robert Valencia said the two governments have been discussing this agreement for more than four years, as reported by Indian Country Today.

Ward 3 Council Member Paul Durham passed the motion. All the city council members unanimously voted yay to the agreement, a 7-0 vote.

The City of Tucson will provide water service, law enforcement, fire protection, and emergency services. The tribal government would be responsible for all maintenance of roads and

streets and must follow all City of Tucson building and fire regulations, as reported by the Arizona Daily Star.

Valencia added that economic development is extremely important to the tribe because the tribal population is growing, and they must continually find new ways to support additional membership, as reported by Indian Country Today.

The City of Tucson and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe hope to both benefit under this new agreement. While construction plans of a casino are not set in stone, a list of other potential economic developments are being discussed.

“We are proud of the great relationship that we have with the City of Tucson, and feel we are great partners in the region. This intergovernmental agreement is a natural extension of that partnership and we believe it will guide the future development of this area, which is so important to both the Tribe and the City,” said Valencia, as reported by Indian Country Today.

Gaming has been considered and the City of Tucson and the tribe would need to discuss a specific process if gaming is pursued, as reported by Indian Country Today.

Valencia is most looking forward to building a future not only on the land but for his people with this agreement, as reported by Inside Tucson Business.