



By JENNIFER DENEVAN, Needles Desert Star  
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## **Council contemplates selling property originally planned for park**

NEEDLES — City council members approved providing notification of their intent to abandon a donated property along Coronado Street, west of El Monte and east of DeSoto streets, during their meeting Jan. 14.

The approval means the city can look into possibly declaring the property surplus. If that's completed, the city would look into selling it.

**Rick Daniels, city manager, said the city began looking into the possibility of declaring the donated property as surplus after someone called who was interested in buying it.**

**City staff did a search and found it had been donated in 1966, Daniels said. It was supposed to be used for a park.**

**He said the city hasn't had the resources to ever turn that property into a city park. Now, with such tight financial constraints, even if it could be turned into a park the city doesn't have the staff or resources to maintain it, he added.**

**Staff have continually been on the lookout for any surplus city property that could be sold, he said. If there's city property that isn't being used but there's a possibility of it getting developed if sold, that's what they've done, he continued.**

**The donated property was never looked at previously because it had been labeled "for park," he said. Finally, when someone called interested in buying it, it forced staff to take a look to see if it could be sold, he continued.**

**At this point, the city is looking to contact Robert Richardson, who was affiliated with the people who donated the property, to see if he has feedback on possibly selling the property, Daniels said.**

**The council's approval opens up a process of seeing what can be done with the property, Daniels said. From this point, a public hearing will be held.**

**The hearing will allow the public to comment on how they feel about the donated property, Daniels said. During that hearing, the council will decide whether to move forward with selling it or not, he added.**

Hearing now set for March 11

A public hearing on potential sale of .62 acres of city-owned property on the east side of Coronado Street, north of El Monte and south of Desoto streets has been continued by staff until March 11, 2014.