



CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING

STUDY SESSION MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022, 1:00 PM

201 S. Cortez Street
Prescott, AZ 86303
Council Chambers

Phil Goode, Mayor

Cathey Rusing, Mayor Pro Tem
Brandon Montoya, Councilman
Eric Moore, Councilman

Jessica Hall, Councilwoman
Steve Sischka, Councilman
Clark Tenney, Councilman

MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION OF THE PRESCOTT CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION HELD ON APRIL 26, 2022, IN THE 201 S. CORTEZ STREET PRESCOTT, AZ 86303 COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Goode called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Phil Goode	Mayor
Cathey Rusing	Mayor Pro Tem
Jessica Hall	Councilwoman - Excused
Brandon Montoya	Councilman
Eric Moore	Councilman
Steve Sischka	Councilman – Arrived at 1:11 p.m.
Clark Tenney	Councilman

3. DISCUSSION

- A. Presentation from PROTECT, Planning for the Resilience of Our Towns, Environment, Climate and Tourism.

Chair of PROTECT Steering Committee, Patrick Grady, thanked Council for their time and the opportunity to provide a presentation. This organization is non-partisan and grassroots focused on security, political and public support in a Quad Cities Climate Risk Assessment. He hopes that people will find common ground on this issue and recognize the work happening in fire reduction and mitigation. PROTECT is focused on four topics: hotter temperatures, long-term droughts, flooding events and wildfires.

PROTECT Member Kaia Hayes continued the presentation with an overview of the Camp Fire in Paradise, CA and shared a video covering the incident. She wants to inspire everyone to be vigilant and establish partnerships to build a safer future for communities. Benefits for climate planning are that it shows the need for public safety with preparedness and planning, and the need to innovate in

developing policies. They feel that the Quad Cities needs to implement a Climate Risk Assessment for the region.

Mr. Grady continued and addressed Council regarding proposed Risk Assessment and introduced Dr. Alison Meadow with Climate Assessment for the Southwest (CLIMAS) at the University of Arizona who has conducted this study for Sedona and Verde Valley.

Dr. Meadow discussed CLIMAS' mission which is to link the science of climate change and decision making at all levels of government. They work with policy makers at all levels in order to inform decisions to find ways to strengthen community plans. CLIMAS is funded by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Community climate profiles project can help develop long-term planning efforts and have worked with eight communities in New Mexico and Arizona. Plans and strategies need to be driven by the community because they are the ones that live with the outcomes. No cost to the community for the report because it would come from NOAA.

Ms. Hayes continued and stated that they hope this will lay the groundwork for moving forward with the Climate Risk Assessment for the Quad Cities, they strongly encourage Prescott to participate.

Mayor Goode asked what communities in Arizona have gone through this process and what some of the implemented items are as a result of these studies.

Dr. Meadow commented that CLIMAS worked directly with Sedona and Verde Valley here in Arizona.

Mr. Grady said that the implementation of solar, electric vehicles for municipalities, shuttles to trail systems, etc. are some of the things that have been implemented. PROTECT can provide a detailed summary of this information to Council if they would like it.

Councilman Montoya asked if other stakeholders would need to come to the table to participate in this, who would those be. He also asked what else besides the city being a stakeholder is required.

Mr. Grady responded that other local municipalities such as Yavapai County Office of Emergency Management, County Health Departments, and Prescott Area Urban Wildlife Interface Commission (PAUIC), would be good examples.

Dr. Meadow commented that CLIMAS's role is to provide access to information and data to the community, they do not lead a climate process for Prescott; that would be the region's responsibility. They provide help, advice and resources but hand off decision making to the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Rusing commented that this assessment will be an important tool to plan for the future to be prepared for climate change and how to have cost savings involved.

Member of the public Tom Rusing addressed Council as Chairman of Save the Dells who strongly endorses and supports the efforts of the PROTECT Campaign, encourages Prescott and surrounding communities and Yavapai County to take part in this process.

This item was for discussion only, no formal action was taken.

B. Presentation and Discussion Regarding Community Risk Reductions & Lessons Learned from the 2002 Indian Fire.

Fire Chief Holger Durre introduced Crooks Fire Incident Commander Rocky Opliger to provide an update on the ongoing incident.

Mr. Opliger provided an update to Council regarding the Crooks Fire incident which began on Monday, April 18. Incident management began quickly which has been beneficial for getting control of the incident. Fire is currently at 6,454 acres and 60% containment; fire remains active today. Issue now seems to be area below Lookout Mountain as it is difficult country to work in at nighttime. Highest priority besides public safety is firefighter safety. Relationships with law enforcement and assisting agencies has been fantastic. Community Meeting on Thursday.

Chief Durre commented that the partnerships and relationships in this community are unique. He introduced audience members with the US Forest Service. Community risk reduction is a key factor of what needs to be done here, pre-incident/incident/post-incident. Prescott is already a leader in pre-incident mitigation already. He continued the presentation with lessons learned from the Indian Fire.

Fire Facts:

- * Started May 15, 2002
- * Most significant wildfire in Prescott for over 100 years
- * Five homes were destroyed along with 1,365 acres of vegetation
- * 1500 people were evacuated and 2,000 homes were directly threatened
- * Fire contained within five days and cost \$3,000,000

Response Lessons Learned:

- * Aggressive fuel reduction
- * Quick initial attack by response partners
- * Interagency coordination with law and emergency management agencies

Lessons Learned Strategies Affirmed:

- * Funding is important for all aspects of wildfire community risk reduction, including reduction/preparedness/response/recovery
- * Interagency cooperation is key
- * The risk posed by wildland fire in the Prescott Basin is high and is likely to be exacerbated by current conditions
- * Short-term, medium-term, and long-term strategies must be implemented and measured for effectiveness to ensure community preparedness

Councilman Montoya asked Chief Durre to discuss the city's lack of ability to staff a Level 3 event and asked for the Chief's thoughts on PROTECT's presentation.

Chief Durre responded that Type 3 is lower than Type 1 but it is critical because it is a necessary building block that is somewhat of a gap for the city at this point. Need people who can direct the tools we have to smoothly transition to a higher incident level team. He believes that the concerns regarding a Community Risk Assessment would be beneficial to Prescott, but various pieces of the community need to come together in order to do that.

Councilman Sischka asked Chief Durre to discuss the communities that burned around Boulder and how fire prepared they were.

Chief Durre discussed the Marshall Fire and the Calwood Fire the issue with these fires is that they burned outside of city limits and in open space areas. Boulder has a wonderful fire readiness plan but it is specific to evacuation and planning within city limits, so the lesson to be applied is regionalization. Partnership for leveraging smart policy and regulation is very important, individual homeowner responsibility is critical. Constant public information efforts are necessary.

Member of the public Michael King addressed Council regarding the history of Prescott related to water and fire issues dating back to the 1890s. Prescott is the only National Forest named after a place and not a person. We were prepared for the Indian Fire, partnerships here are extraordinary and that must continue. Always about "us".

Member of the public Dr. William Collison addressed Council regarding personal responsibility and homeowner responsibility and access to information. He encourages Council help individual citizens to be informed.

This item was for discussion only, no formal action was taken.

- C. Presentation from Yavapai County Public Works Regarding a Proposed Roundabout at Commerce & Pioneer Parkway.

Yavapai County Public Works Director Dan Cherry provided a presentation to Council regarding proposed roundabout at Pioneer Parkway and Commerce Drive and a regional partnership for this project. Regional Roads Program was established in 1996 to create a funding source for the construction of new regionally important transportation alignments/improvements/partnering with other jurisdictions on regionally significant projects.

Examples:

- * Willow Creek Road Realignment 2013 - City of Prescott, CYMPO and ADOT
- * SR89 Pavement Rehabilitation Phippen to Willow Lake Road 2019 - City of Prescott and ADOT
- * Sunset Lane Reconstruction and Safety Improvements 2016 - Town of Prescott Valley
- * Original Construction of Pioneer Parkway 1997 - City of Prescott

Issues at Pioneer Parkway & Commerce Drive:

- * High Speeds – four lane road with steep grades entering the intersection from the east and west
- * Accident History – no recorded fatalities yet but severe “T-bone” accidents have taken place
- * Safety Improvements – traffic signal not ideal for pedestrian or vehicular traffic, intersection already gets heavy use and is a primary access point for Pioneer Park and other public facilities
- * Commerce Drive North is a Future City of Prescott Arterial Roadway – Hidden Hills and Deep Well Ranch

Why a Roundabout:

- * Much safer intersection configuration: low speeds and far less likely to have severe accidents
- * Steeper grades lead to a natural tendency to for the public to drive faster on approach
- * Desire to construct the ultimate improvements once and not piecemeal temporary improvements
- * Opportunity to get subdivision developments to assist with cost
- * Width of intersection would mean a very long wait for pedestrians and vehicles per cycle with a light
- * With signal intersection one leg still operates at LOS D from traffic related to Phase 2 extension of Commerce Drive to vacant land and Deep Well Connection, roundabout would be a LOS A

Have reviewed the Hidden Hills Traffic Impact Analysis, as future development happens in this area a signal at this intersection would continue to cause breakdown not just for vehicle traffic but also pedestrian.

Project Status:

- * 100% design completed at County expense of \$265,000
 - * Potential Partnering Project for Construction – Yavapai County and City of Prescott
 - * Bid Advertisement have gone out with bid opening in late May
- Anticipating July – December 2022 construction; County will administer project at the construction phase
- * Project Construction Budget - \$2.7 million
 - * Project Cost Estimates - \$3.7 million

Mr. Cherry stated that the County is seeing a contribution from City in the amount of \$1,000,000 – potential Development Agreements and Development Impact Fees.

Councilman Montoya commented that many projects are coming in significantly over Engineer Estimates recently and expressed his concern that they would return with requests for additional money.

Mr. Cherry responded that they have raised the estimates based on what is being seen and wouldn't intend on asking for anything additional to cover overage costs. He added that an IGA could be developed which expressly sets the city's contribution.

Mayor Goode asked what a signaled intersection would cost in that area. One of his primary concerns is this area at night and people being able to navigate that area at night. Would want there to be illumination on the roundabout. He asked about the number of vehicles per day in this area.

Mr. Cherry responded the County does not do many traffic signal intersections but would anticipate at least \$1 million. Roundabouts are required to have illumination so that will be handled, also plan to have the topography adjusted in the area where it is placed so that it is flatter. Mr. Cherry added that they have clocked 7700 vehicles eastbound on Pioneer Parkway, 8100 westbound on Pioneer Parkway, 4500 north/south on Commerce Drive.

Councilman Tenney commented that working with the developer of Hidden Hills and Deep Well Ranch would be beneficial, he added that he is concerned with Prescott paying taxes in the city as well as County to cover these. He is in favor of this project but wants to discuss funding in further detail.

Mayor Pro Tem Rusing commented that this area is a growth corridor, and it will continue to get busier.

Councilman Sischka discussed that Prescott Lakes Parkway has a similar topography to this area, but he is comfortable with a roundabout in this area.

Mr. Cherry responded that it is not quite as steep.

Member of the public Barbara Jacobsen addressed Council regarding her concerns with the amount of money that the city has spent on roundabouts already, she doesn't feel that the city should have to contribute anything to this project.

Mr. Cherry responded that the value in this to residents of the city is equal to residents of the County.

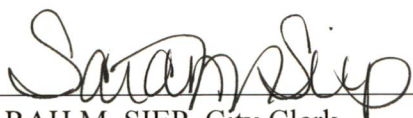
This item was for discussion only, no formal action was taken.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Goode adjourned the meeting at 2:53 p.m.


PHILIP R. GOODE, Mayor

ATTEST:

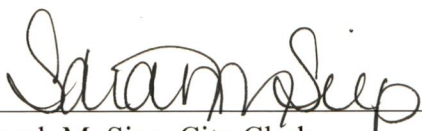

SARAH M. SIEP, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council Study Session of the City of Prescott, Arizona held on April 26, 2022. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 13 day of May, 2022.




Sarah M. Siep, City Clerk