



CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING

STUDY SESSION MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2023, 1:00 PM

201 S. Cortez Street
Prescott, AZ 86303
Council Chambers

Phil Goode, Mayor

Brandon Montoya, Mayor Pro Tem

Cathey Rusing, Councilmember

Eric Moore, Councilman

Connie Cantelme, Councilwoman

Steve Sischka, Councilman

Clark Tenney, Councilman

MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION OF THE PRESCOTT CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION HELD ON JANUARY 24, 2023, IN THE 201 S. CORTEZ STREET PRESCOTT, AZ 86303 COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Goode called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Phil Goode	Mayor
Brandon Montoya	Mayor Pro Tem
Connie Cantelme	Councilwoman
Eric Moore	Councilman
Cathey Rusing	Councilmember
Steve Sischka	Councilman
Clark Tenney	Councilman

3. DISCUSSION

A. Quarterly Update of the Mayor's Commission for Water Policy Review and Monitoring.

Water Resource Project Manager Leslie Graser provided a presentation to Council regarding with a quarterly update from the Mayor's Commission for Water Policy Review & Monitoring beginning with a review from the last update in September.

September 2022 (for Jun-Sept. 2022):

- * A set of questions was developed and used to move the group through a review and monitoring process
- * The Commission also had many topics (17 items) they wanted to tackle
- * Outcome – each policy in the 2022 water management policy would be reviewed

January 2023(for Oct.- Nov.2022, and Jan.2023; no meeting was held in Dec. 2022):

- * Met in October and November 2022 and January 2023
- * Policy review matrix established; Commission members provided their input
- * This same matrix was offered to the PW Deputy Director for a six-month check-in meeting
- * Commission was asked to provide feedback comparing 2019 and 2022 policy documents and a long-term water plan
- * Commission reviewed the December 20, 2022 Council Meeting

Ms. Graser continued with a review of the Policy Matrix, which is being used to review policy by policy. The goal of this is to see which policies need to be elevated for Council to look at more closely.

Councilman Sischka commented that it sounds like this group didn't really understand what they were there for, it sounds like they thought they were going to be water czars but gained a clearer understanding of what their purpose actually is. He also asked if an appeal is granted where does the water come from.

Ms. Graser said there was and has found that is normal with most of these types of groups, overall it is a good group. Staff is currently looking at where the overbudget water would come from.

Deputy Public Works Director Gwen Rowitsch added that in some respects the city is still in the checkbook mentality. The Model is based on utility billing data from the meters, which is being continually tracked, so while the 25-acre feet (AF) is being set aside each year there may actually be less or more based upon actual usage.

Mayor Goode commented that when single family homes was calculated it was based on reasonable data but not actual usage. The goal of this commission is to look at the policy and make it as efficient and effective as possible. The monitoring is getting much more data driven which is very helpful.

Mayor Pro Tem Montoya commented that it was useful to see the matrix to breakdown feedback from Commission members, but he would like to see more feedback than just from two members.

Councilmember Rusing commented that there is a lot of valuable information in this report, and staff is off to a good start.

Councilwoman Cantelme stated that she is a huge advocate for data mining and believes that keeping track of usage for multifamily units, etc. will paint a picture for future water usage. Having this information and presenting it to the Planning & Zoning Commission and Council is helpful for decision making.

Results of Water Management Document Comparisons:

- * General Agreement that the 2022 policy is more effective than the 2019 policy

* General agreement that the 2022 Policy is compared to an example long-term plan that the Commission may recommend the city look toward a long-term plan

Councilmember Rusing commented that she found it exciting the group came up with a long-term water management plan and asked if it would just be for the city or include surrounding areas as well.

Mayor Goode added that making sure the city's policy is as effective as possible, then other things can be looked at later.

Commission Member Michael Taylor commented that the group was slow in getting started but it is getting more cohesive. He would recommend that they be provided additional time to review things.

Ms. Graser echoed Member Taylor's comments.

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

B. Presentation & Discussion Regarding Council Priorities in Use of Opioid Settlement Disbursements.

City Attorney Joseph Young provided a presentation to Council regarding the ongoing opioid litigation and disbursements which are beginning to come out. Need to discuss whether the funds go from the city to the County or other program or vice versa. Prescott got in on all of this fairly early in hopes of avoiding the Multi District Litigation (MDL). All Counties in the state signed the OneArizona Agreement, which is the structure that will be discussed today. First two distributions are in and at the county level (\$66,932 and \$101,000 for year two). The total settlement with J&J is just over \$1 million over the course of seventeen years, but for now staff is just focusing on the first two disbursements. Funds can be spent in a number of ways by the County if there is unanimous agreement. He added that Exhibit C in the packet outlines how all the funds can be spent. The County would like money to stay with them and then go directly to Partners Against Narcotics Trafficking (PANT). This would address treatment strategies, support treatment and recovery, and provide prevention strategies and other strategies. If the money comes to the city it doesn't preclude the city from giving the money to PANT but it would be up to us how that happens and where/how much is distributed.

Mayor Goode commented that he was part of a Structured Sober Living Home Committee during former Mayor Oberg's tenure in order to deal with the serious impacts of significant number of sober living homes in the area. With the authority to do so the number of sober homes went from north of 250 to less than 30, and most of these now are doing a good job of giving appropriate treatment. Because of the impact here in Prescott being so much more significant than other areas in the County he attempted to get their help in dealing with the issue but was told there wasn't one in the County and now they are retaining the vast majority of the funds (69%) rather than the local jurisdictions. He feels that considering the impact the city should be able to decide for itself how to use this funding.

Councilmember Rusing said the government has decriminalized the use of drugs and incentivized their treatment by paying for these types of treatments. She feels PANT should address the root of the problem which is the drug dealers and thinks that is where the money should go.

Councilman Moore asked about the varying dollar amounts presented throughout the packet. He feels that keeping the money in the city is best, but retaining the funds requires administrative functions that we may not have but turning that over to the County would alleviate that portion of things.

Mr. Young responded that there are multiple different settlements with pharmaceutical companies which is why there are different amounts. He hasn't assigned anyone who would be responsible for that yet but feels it would be minimal staff work. He reminded Council that this is also just for the first two disbursements and not the whole of the 17 years.

Finance Director Mark Woodfill stated that funds distribution would be part of the budget cycle and then sending a list of projects over to the County.

Mayor Goode said even if the funds come directly to the city they could still distribute a portion to PANT, but the difference is the city would have overall control of how the funds are disbursed.

Mr. Young added that civil asset forfeitures are not happening as much as they used to be.

Councilwoman Cantelme added that she was also on Mayor Oberg's Commission, the bill was permissive which was offered to surrounding jurisdictions and many chose not to. She would like to see .75% of the settlement funds go to our local police and fire departments.

Councilman Tenney asked to hear from the Police Chief regarding her opinion on this.

Police Chief Amy Bonney addressed Council and stated that there isn't a bad direction for disbursement of these funds. PANT is a regional/countywide task force, and they are extremely effective. Looking at how they will be funded into the future, this partnership and crossover is very important. Initially supporting PANT is a good option for us locally.

Mayor Goode commented that PANT is currently under water and being able to maintain their funding which can be done through Yavapai County and the City of Prescott should make the determination of where it goes.

Mr. Young commented that there will be a vote at the next Voting Meeting for Council's approval, would like a poll of Council to know the direction staff should go.

Cantelme would like to see funds stay local.

Councilman Sischka voiced his support in maintaining control of the funds but going to PANT.

Councilmember Rusing supports money going to PANT and having the city retain the discretion.

Mayor Goode clarified that Council is deciding whether or not to retain the right to determine where the funds go or allow the County to make that determination.

Councilman Moore commented that he is in favor of initially selecting the option to determine where funds go.

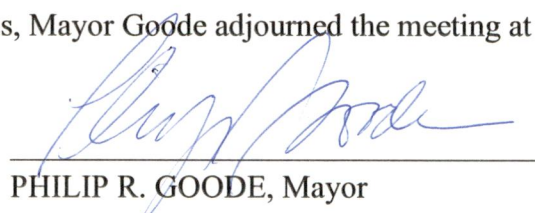
Councilman Tenney concurred, initially flexibility on part of the city would be beneficial.

Mayor Pro Tem Montoya stated that it comes down to whether it would create an undue burden on staff and as it has been stated it will not, he would like to retain control of that. Does want to continue to retain regional cooperation but makes sense to keep the discretion for the time being.

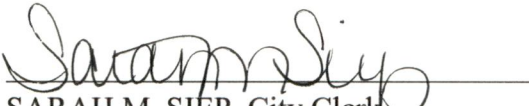
This item was for discussion only, no formal action was taken.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Goode adjourned the meeting at 2:21 p.m.


PHILIP R. GOODE, Mayor

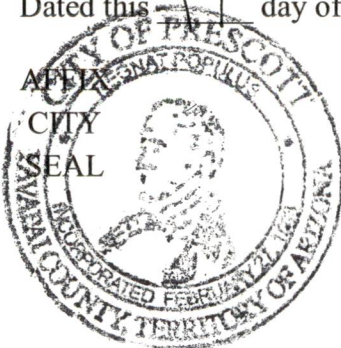
ATTEST:


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 January 24, 2023. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 17 day of February, 2023.




Sarah M. Siep, City Clerk