



City of Prescott

City Council - Study Session

May 9, 2023 | 1:00 PM
201 N Montezuma Street
City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor
Prescott, AZ 86301

MINUTES

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. Presentation & Discussion Regarding the 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 the Mayor's Commission on Water Policy Review & Monitoring and their recommendations regarding recommendations from the group regarding the current policy.

Draft Synopsis:

- * Code and Policy Changes when the updates were made
- * Would like to remedy disconnects within the policy
- * Recommendations presented today were voted 6-0 by the Commission
- * Continue with 2022 Policy, but should remove or correct language the city doesn't or can't act upon
- * 2019 Policy fell short and only provided limited guidance for management of water

Councilmember Rusing pointed out that there are three different water policies that are being referenced in this process.

Ms. Graser confirmed and stated that the group looked specifically at comparisons to the former policies to see how effective it is.

Recommendations:

- * Develop procedures for the use of the Water Resource Management Model (WRMM) - there are gaps between what the WRMM will do versus how it is being used

- * These are draft recommendations which will likely go through the Commission to Study Session and to a Vote
- * Policy 3 Determining Water Usage Based on the WRMM Unless a Demand Analysis is Requested by the City - multiple recommendations regarding updates to be made

Mayor Pro Tem Montoya asked if the recommendation from the Commission is to increase from 0.17 to .0.26 acre feet (AF) for water allocation figures for residential based on the WRMM's city residential usage number.

Ms. Graser confirmed.

Councilwoman Cantelme asked how often the WRMM is updated.

Ms. Graser responded that the WRMM is updated once a year.

Councilman Sischka commented that the pre-2018 policy had it at .35AF for single family residences and it seems prudent to have the buffer. However, that would then have the limit being reached sooner and would potentially push projects out of the community to other jurisdictions that are not as water conscious.

Mayor Goode commented that the responsibility is to manage the city's water portfolio in the best interest of the citizens of this city. He feels the WRMM can be a much better enforcement tool to make sure that the water is being used in a way the allocation was intended to be done.

Mayor Pro Tem Montoya commented that this group is made up of a variety of people with experience in water and the all recommend having a buffer, which is important to note.

Ms. Graser continued with the commendations.

Policy 3 Recommendations:

- * Use correct terminology for the WRMM
- * Verify the WRM is being used when new applications come in
- * Conduct analysis of landscape water use

Policy11-13 Recommendations:

- * Policy 13 is still being reviewed
- * Policy 14 - Council seek to roll any unused volumes to the following 6-month period. However, it would caution the transferring of the commercial water budget to the residential budget until there is clear information from Comm Dev and other departments that residential already approved had the complimentary support services available; the appeal process needs to be more specific/having some distinct non-negotiable requirements as well as deducting the volume granted from the remaining volume the city has to allocate.

Councilmember Rusing commented that Policy 19 failed 3-3 and asked why this did not pass.

Commissioner Michael Taylor commented that these are already established in other areas of the land development code, making this section redundant.

Policy 20-21 Recommendations:

* Policy 20 - Council seeks from the policy development team what was prepared to execute this policy. If there was no procedure in place or prepared to manage this policy, then it needs to be addressed. All documents should align.

Mayor Goode commented that the Palmer development had a consultant-based usage of similar areas, but when looking at a similar unit complex by the same developer their estimated usage was actually much less.

Ms. Graser responded that in the case of redevelopment of a property it is difficult to determine.

Councilmember Rusing stated that staff should conduct a records search of prior water agreements before the Council proceeds with approval of water.

Water Resource & Environmental Services Manager Brian Ruiz responded that Water Resources Management group will improve communication on that.

Councilwoman Cantelme asked when the landscape requirements are enforced.

Ms. Graser responded that when the application is submitted it is looked at and then there are inspections done later but she isn't aware of the details on that.

* Policy 21 - Council seeks from the policy development team what practices were in place or would be in place for staff to follow this policy. If a policy doesn't have the practices in place, then it shouldn't be included in a document to give the impression that certain actions are taking place that aren't.

Councilman Sischka asked when a well is retired, is it taken out of the requirement for the new development based on what it had.

Ms. Graser responded that there has been a misunderstanding related to how this is done. The Decision and Order is under modification, so at this time, basic work can be done to address things without making significant changes that would be impacted by that at a later date.

Councilmember Rusing asked staff to address the "existing" language in the policy. Existing can be approved administratively.

Ms. Graser responded that anything from 1999-before 2018 that was under the 2019 policy is considered to be "existing". It is not specifically defined in policy but staff are seeing that anything in the last five years would be considered existing.

Mayor Po Tem thanked the staff and the Commission for their work on this. We have a water policy and a D&O that is under additional review, so while he

appreciates the comments regarding bridging, there is an overarching policy that should be looked at as well. Would like the staff to develop a long-term strategic plan around water.

Councilman Moore asked if there is a plan in place regarding a long range water management plan and what that might look like. A policy should be created by staff who are experts and not the Council who is not.

Ms. Graser responded that they are looking at 2022 policy to bridge and create a long-term management plan for the water. Within the 2015 General Plan there were discussions regarding a long term management plan, so they made a comparison between the 2019 policy and a longer term management plan (Tucson Water which is a 50-year plan that is evaluated every five years is a good example).

Mayor Goode commented that when he ran for Mayor two years ago it was clear to him that the existing policy was generating extra growth and implementing a new, more deliberate water management plan that is a short-term plan to address the larger overall Strategic Water Management Plan which can align with the General Plan. He foresees this as a 10 year plan and suggests then looking at something more similar to what Tucson has.

Councilmember Rusing concurred and stated that she supports a long-range water management plan for the community.

Councilwoman Cantelme stated that this is common sense driven, and data driven, which is how you survive political whims. Feels this should be looked at every two years.

Member of the public Tony Hamer addressed Council regarding this being the number one issue for citizens in the community. There is a lot of misinformation and poor information around water, would like the Council to consider putting out integrated communications to the citizens to avoid that issue. Developing a long term water management plan is very clearly missing at this time.

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 2:13 p.m.



PHILIP R. GOODE, Mayor

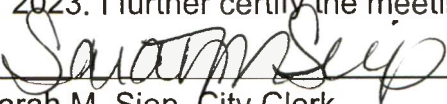
ATTEST:



SARAH M. SIEP, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Voting Meeting of the City Council Voting Meeting of the City of Prescott, Arizona held on May 9, 2023. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.



Sarah M. Siep, City Clerk

