



City of Prescott

City Council - Study Session

September 26, 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 Automatic Meter-Reading Infrastructure (AMI) and Water Meter Replacement Project.
City Manager Katie Gregory introduced Deputy Public Works Director Janet Ramsay to address Council and provide a presentation regarding this program.

Ms. Ramsay stated that the Automated Meter Reading Infrastructure (AMI) program will enhance and address many of the customer service needs the city is currently facing. She introduced Utilities Manager Steven Olfers to speak further regarding the project.

Mr. Olfers introduced Water Superintendent Nathan Graham, Ferguson WaterWorks Representative Jordan Miller and Badger Meters Solution Architect Alan Breese to discuss the smart meter infrastructure. He stated that this strategic program will upgrade city meters to an automatic system that will transmit the readings to a centralized location.

Background:

- * Water system consists of nearly 27,000 water service connections
- * Water meters need to be replaced every 15 years
- * Most of the current infrastructure is 10-15 years old
- * New technology allows leaks to be detected up to 30 days sooner
- * FY24 begin Phase I of replacing outdated meters
- * June 2023, City of Prescott received \$3 million dollar grant to begin the first phase of the project

Program Overview:

- * Replacement of all meters with Badger Brand Meters
- * Replacement of endpoints with Orion Cellular endpoints
- * Development of customer interface application
- * Integration of MUNIS billing system with customer interface
- * Estimated water savings of 405 acre-feet per year with updated technology

Budget:

- * Expected program expenditure - \$12.5 million
- * FY24 - \$1.5 million
- * FY25 through FY29 CIP Funding Budgeted - \$2.75 million/year
- * WIFA Conservation Grant - \$3 million

Mayor Goode asked about the relationship between Badger and Ferguson and how each would be involved in the project.

Mr. Breese responded that Badger has extensive experience in this area and sells more meters than all competitors in the industry. This product was introduced in 2014 along with the smartphone app.

Mr. Miller added that other municipalities in the state including Clarkdale, Marana, Sedona, Waldon Meadows, and more use their meters.

Councilman Tenney asked for clarification on what the cost will be for this project to the city at this time.

Mr. Olfers responded that the cost of this project will take place over the next five fiscal years in smaller increments each year and added that the WIFA Grant in the amount of \$3 million will reduce the total amount of \$12.5 million for the project.

Councilman Moore asked if these will be implemented in the total service area or just within city limits.

Mr. Olfers stated that it will be in the entire service area.

Councilman Tenney asked how many meters will be replaced at a time.

Mr. Olfers responded that the plan is to replace 600 meters per month over a five-year period.

Councilwoman Cantelme asked about regulating the allotment of water and if these meters would impact that.

Mr. Olfers responded that these would not do that, the only time water would be shut off is if the bill is unpaid. This is simply a necessary replacement and upgrade to the existing meters.

Mr. Miller addressed Council regarding how water technology system upgrades work. The organization has local support to address needs locally and combat

any potential problems. He discussed the "Eye on Water" user portal, water conservation and other options. He reviewed the network security and ability to have data viewed to address water operations in the city. The system addresses a number of regularly occurring problems that utility managers experience with actionable intelligence.

Eye on Water:

- * User portal
- * Can see current leaks, outages, establish contact preferences
- * Daily, weekly, monthly, yearly water usage
- * Allows city staff and user to review

Water Conservation:

- * Reduction Goal
- * Proactive versus reactive approach
- * Pinpoint data regarding leaks

Mayor Goode commented that he feels these technological enhancements will be helpful for residents when they are out of town or if this is a second home to quickly detect leaks and notify. He asked how the company ensures their system does not get hacked.

Mr. Breese said that it is securely hosted by the largest company and is annually checked for compliance and security requirements.

Councilmember Rusing asked if the new meters will only be for residential accounts or commercial accounts as well.

Mr. Olfers stated that it will be used for commercial accounts as well.

Councilman Moore asked if the transmission of data requires electricity and would be impacted by electrical outages.

Mr. Miller responded that all alerts are battery powered and would not be impacted by any outages.

Councilman Tenney asked if this will retain previous data from customer meters.

Mr. Breese stated that the graphs and information customers see on their bills comes directly from the city's utility billing system and will always be included. Also, the Beacon information will break it down even further so customers will get even more information.

Advantages:

- * Trusted local partner
- * 20-year product
- * Eye on Water consumer portal
- * Network as a service
- * Dedicated technical support
- * Strategically phased deployment

- * Certified product and system trainers
- * Software as a service

Mayor Goode stated that he is excited about the implementation of this system, and the community at large will benefit substantially from this.

Councilmember Rusing stated that it is a pleasure to reinvest tax dollars into the city's infrastructure.

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

B. Presentation & Discussion Regarding Transfer Station Operations and Proposed Hours Change.

City Manager Katie Gregory once again welcomed Deputy Public Works Director Janet Ramsay to provide a presentation to Council regarding upcoming changes at the transfer station.

Ms. Ramsay addressed Council and stated that Solid Waste is one of the most front facing departments in the city. Service 400 customers a day at the Transfer Station and it is important to operate it efficiently. She introduced Solid Waste Superintendent Brady Higgs and other staff to discuss proposed changes at the transfer station and added that there is an item on the Consent Agenda at today's Voting Meeting for the updated software that staff will be discussing.

Mr. Higgs introduced Solid Waste Supervisor Lee Peterson and Administrative Coordinator Gina Arreaga with Solid Waste to discuss the Transfer Station.

Overview:

- * Transfer Station is not a landfill
- * Waste hauled in must be trucked out the same day and staff must continue working until all the hauling trucks are loaded
- * Trash is hauled to Dewey by our trucking contractor
- * Recyclables are hauled to Phoenix along with e-waste and large metal

Operation:

- * The Transfer Station is open six days a week, Monday-Saturday 8 am - 4 pm
- * Minimum staffing - one senior equipment operator, two equipment operators, one fee booth attendant, one administrative assistant, one supervisor (on-call Saturdays), senior and equipment operators work 30-40% of this duty on overtime
- * Lines of customers waiting to drop off can be long
- * Time is needed after the last drop off to load and transfer waste off of the premises

New Hours & Future Improvements:

- * Effective December 2, 2023 new hours will be one hour earlier, open from 7 am - 3 pm
- * City will provide notice on-site, through the website and on social media regarding these changes
- * Other related improvements - relocation of the fee booth to facilitate longer queuing for customers and bypass lanes for those not using the Transfer Station,

new scale installation, new software that will facilitate email receipts/automated statements/invoicing options, all proposed improvements support Council goals of highly rated city services

Councilwoman Cantelme asked how e-waste is dealt with, particularly lithium batteries.

Mr. Higgs responded that batteries are only taken during hazardous household waste event and are held separately. All e-waste goes with the hauling offsite once a month to avoid any issues.

Councilman Tenney thanked staff for what they do and stated that these revisions will be good for customers and city staff as well.

Ms. Arreaga added that the Transfer Station currently has a very outdated system and so staff has looked into other opportunities for what is available. The new program services more than 50% of municipalities and will create more integrated software and better customer experience.

Councilman Moore asked if the city charges a different rate for non-city of Prescott residents that use the facility.

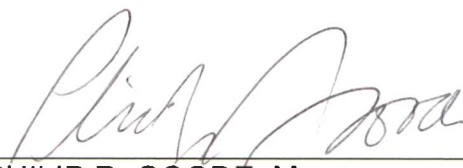
Mr. Higgs responded that we do not. He added that when the transfer station was established it was done as a regional transfer station.

Mr. Ramsay added that although there isn't a different rate, the residential services are exclusive to our customers (bulk items, hazardous household waste, etc). Also, the IGA helps us with projects that we plan to do in the future because of cost-sharing.

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 2:05 p.m.



PHILIP R. GOODE, Mayor

ATTEST:

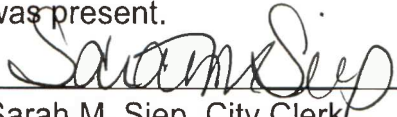


SARAH M. SEIP, City Clerk

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

September 26, 2023. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.



Sarah M. Siep, City Clerk

