



City of Prescott

City Council - Workshop Meeting

February 16, 2024 | 8:00 AM
116 N Marina Street
Marina Room at The Hassayampa
Prescott, AZ 86301

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Goode called the meeting to order at 8:11 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Phil Goode - Mayor
Connie Cantelme - Mayor Pro Tem
Lois Fruhwirth - Councilwoman
Ted Gambogi - Councilman
Brandon Montoya - Councilman (Absent)
Eric Moore - Councilman (Excused)
Cathey Rusing - Councilmember

3. DISCUSSION

A. Part II Presentation, Discussion & Consideration of the City Council Strategic Plan.

Presentation, Discussion & Consideration of the City Council Strategic Plan.

Jeremy Stephens and Marv Weidner of Managing Results LLC were present to provide a presentation to the Council regarding the Strategic Plan. The group provided an overview of Strategic Plan Part I and requested feedback on the topic to begin Part II of the Strategic Plan.

Councilman Gambogi requested starting with the topic of transportation due to citizen complaints of increased traffic and safety concerns. He stated a safe, efficient flow of traffic should be added to the City's goals.

Councilmember Rusing stated the term used should be roads; the future and safety of the City of Prescott's roads. She commented on a connection of Highway 69 to Chino Valley, the regional roadway passing downtown Prescott that would promote growth and allow Tri-City to be connected.

Mr. Stephens responded that road connectivity would increase traffic, and a bypass of the downtown area may decrease the city's economic development. He asked the Council what the main goal would be.

Vinny Gallegos, Executive Director of Central Yavapai Metropolitan Planning (CYMPO), stated a regional network is essential to economic growth and public safety. He provided a brief explanation of CYPMO and its partnerships with Prescott and the surrounding areas. He stated CYMPO is working toward a 25

year transportation plan with the Prescott's General plan taken into account as well as, all regional roadways.

Mayor Pro Tem Cantelme stated Prescott proper has two main exists. She continued stating the importance of prioritizing the residents and visitors ability to enter and exit the City of Prescott. She then commented on the traffic coming in from Prescott Valley, as workers live there and drive in. She stated there were many concerns received in response to the possible widening through the Dells.

Mr. Gallegos commented on the ease of highway systems, and Prescott's ownership of part of Highway 89, with the remainder being owned by the state. He stated the City of Prescott should rally for the highway system and voice its necessity to the state. He provided estimates on the cost of road maintenance and constructions while emphasizing the need for collaboration to mitigate costs.

Mayor Pro Tem Cantelme stated the need to rally together to improve the roadways. She commented on the need to be proactive, due to increased costs in building and construction material.

Councilman Gambogi commented on the length of time need for these planned projects to be completed, and stated that it may take 15- 25 years to be planned and completed.

Mr. Gallegos stated there is the opportunity to prioritize these projects in the Strategic Plan.

Mayor Goode stated the Strategic Plan is meant to provide a plan for the next 2-5 years and a goal should be to provide safe travel for those that are coming in and dealing with the congestion. He also mentioned the option of a park and ride where commuters would park at Deep Well Ranch (DWR) and be provided with transportation to the Yavapai County Courthouse. It was stated that public transportation would be required for this option to work.

Mr. Gallegos stated the option of a park and ride is traditionally associated with public transportation.

Mr. Weidner stated that strictly supporting the highway is not a measurable goal. He also stated the Strategic Plan can incorporate partnerships, but goals should not be based on those partnerships.

Councilman Gambogi requested the traffic report data, nd commented that with effective workforce housing not as many workers would have to commute into town.

Councilwoman Fruhwirth stated the population demographic in terms of age should be considered when planning the city's roadway projects, specifically commenting on the difficulties seniors may have with the amount of lanes changes on Hwy 69.

Councilmember Rusing stated the economic benefits of the Hwy 69 corridor.

Mayor Goode mentioned the need for more police officers to also assist with the decrease of accidents and fatalities.

Councilman Gambogi asked if the congestion has been measured, and if it is possible to add language regarding a roads grade to be included ensuring that they don't degrade past a certain level.

Mr. Gallegos stated the process in which congestion is measured.

Mayor Goode concurred that road conditions should also be taken into consideration.

Mr. Stephens stated things like the PCI Index are these high level citywide strategic results and more operational day-to-day metrics.

Public Works Director Gwen Rowitsch provided information on the current road conditions and the process for improvement.

Councilwoman Fruhwirth stated it may be necessary to have voters decide in the future if they want to have a means of funding and addressing road conditions to make a dent in the backlog. There should be a discussion about how to address these issues and whether the Council plans to take anything to the voters.

Mayor Pro Tem Cantelme concurred, but added that shining a light on all priorities in the Strategic Plan is a good idea.

Mr. Stephens stated operationally the Council seems to have a plan to addresses these issues and making determinations on when they want to target these changes is up to them, he added that there could also be a second variable related to how much of an increase the Council desires to have. If the goal is to increase the index currently at 65 with a goal of 70, the intermittent target could be 67.5 for example.

Ms. Rowitsch provided information on the distinctions between increasing the PCI and decreasing the backlog.

Mr. Stephens provided a synopsis of discussion with the list provided.

Transportation

Strategic Transportation Goals

- * Safe Efficient Flow of Traffic or transportation throughout the City as evidence by decrease in traffic deaths.
- * In alignment with the 25 yr. transportation plan, through partnership. City will enter participation in highway system to benefit the Prescott Community with emphasis on Hwy 69.

-By DATE, the community will experience the safe, efficient flow of traffic/ transportation throughout the City as evidence by:

- * Reduction in traffic congestion**

*** Reduction traffic injuries/ fatalities**

*** Reduction in pedestrian injuries/ fatalities**

- Beginning in 2024, is alignment with the long range regional transportation plan. and working with partners (ADOT, CYMPO), the City will champion the development of a regional network to include highway system and regional roadways.

Mr. Stephens continued onto water as the next topic. He requested information from Council regarding what result they want related to water.

Councilmember Rusing stated that providing safe potable water to users within the city's water service area boundary, and the importance of not being limited to the city limits as the "service area" goes beyond city limits and these should be focuses.

Mr. Stephens responded stating that water supply and water quality related to PFAS have been mentioned many times as well as the many plans the city has related to water, and asked for confirmation from the Council that they want the community to have safe potable water for users within the water surface area boundary.

Council consensus regarding this statement.

Councilmember Rusing also commented on the 2022 water policy water management policy and stated a goal would be for a Regional Water Management Plan.

Mayor Pro Tem Cantelme stated her concern regarding mitigation of PFAs going forward.

Mr. Stephens responded that creating a long term water management plan and allowing the community to experience safe potable water within the water service area could be a goal.

Councilmember Rusing stressed the importance of including infrastructure.

Mr. Weidner requested adding the word reliable, which would encompass infrastructure and safety.

Mayor Goode stated there are three components to consider: 1. Safety, 2. Quality of the water, and 3. Distribution or delivery of the water. He also stated that discussing how the city uses water to be able to integrate and manage growth is important.

Councilmember Rusing requested adding an element of conservation.

Water

*** Regional Water Management Plan**

*** To provide safe potable water to users within our water service boundary.**

*** 2022 Water Policy Management**

* City's long- term management plan that includes infrastructure, distribution and reliable safety components.

By, DATE, through the development of a longer term water management plan that includes a focus on infrastructure, distribution, delivery conservation, and safety, the community will experience safe potable water within the water service area boundary.

Recess at 9:29 a.m., reconvened at 9:41 a.m.

Mr. Stephens began with housing as the next topic.

Councilmember Rusing stated that it should be clear that the focus is workforce housing and not Section 8 housing.

Mr. Stephens asked Council about their goals related to workforce housing and what they would want the the community to experience.

Mayor Pro Tem Cantelme provided information from the Workforce Housing Committee related to the current goals and potential options for policies.

Councilmember Rusing stated her goal for the workforce to live and work in Prescott.

Councilman Gambogi stated that for him the question on workforce housing expands to understanding the conditions of supply and demand. Currently, demand is exceeding supply and the price of houses are tripling, homes are turning into Airbnbs etc. He continued to state the problem is a little more robust than just workforce.

Mayor Pro Tem Cantelme stated there is variety in the demographic of individuals looking for housing, for example young professionals as well as seniors living on fixed incomes. She also commented on the difficulties of saving for a down payment, and stated that there is concern regarding the the type of workforce housing being constructed.

Mayor Goode stated the current market has improved in terms of rental availability. The response is not immediate, but has allowed for more options to those looking into housing. He also stated the lack of amenities can assist in decreasing the monthly rental payment.

Councilmember Rusing mentioned other communities have changed their zoning processes to allow for alternative housing options.

Mr. Weidner provided various incentive options discussed by other municipalities and included the term "continuum housing" opportunities.

Community Development Director Chelsea Walton stated that the Workforce Housing Committee will be working toward a Regional Strategic Plan with partnerships including the Arizona Department of Workforce Housing to allow for

furtherment in the City's goals.

Councilwoman Fruhwirth stated the Council's priority should be it's own Strategic Plan and how that relates to housing versus a regional Plan because there is a lack of options for housing within the City limits. She also requested discussion regarding whether codes could allow for a conversion of land to residential for these purposes.

Mayor Pro Tem Cantelme stated the reason for developers working in other areas is because of property being less expensive.

Mayor Goode stated that offering affordable workforce housing in the city limits for essential workers to be able to live and work here, be involved in the community and feel a sense of belonging is important. He also discussed salary ranges for various professions versus the cost of housing.

Councilmember Rusing mentioned the potential for conversion of second and high floors in historic businesses which is currently prevented due to codes. She also stated there are other alternative opportunities which aren't allowed through current city code.

Mayor Pro Tem Cantelme stated the term for this housing is adaptive reuse which has been discussed in the Workforce Housing Committee.

Mr. Stephens stated that working in conjunction related to all of these comments would facilitate the "continuum housing" option for essential workers enabling them to live in the community they work in. He also mentioned the importance of creating a target goal once the housing assessment is created due to the continuous changes in the economy and housing needs, which allows for measurable goals to inform the public of progress.

Mr. Weidner provided an examples of workforce housing options used by other municipalities.

Mr. Stephens asked if there was a housing element in the General Plan.

Ms. Walton stated confirmed there is.

Mr. Stephens stressed the importance of aligning the Strategic Plan along with the General Plan.

Housing

- * Continuum housing opportunities for essential workers
- * Reliable for teachers, doctors, nurses, police, fire etc.
- * Workforce to live, work and engage in the City of Prescott.
- * General Plan
- * Workforce Housing Committee and through partnerships and incentives

By DATE, in alignment with the workforce housing committee, the General

Plan, the housing needs, and assessment the City will facilitate a continuum housing options for essential workers so they can live, work and be engaged in the Prescott community.

Mr. Stephens continued to the final topic, natural environment. He stated the protection of the natural environment or preservation under the natural environment is the result that needs to happen for the community based on the feedback he has received and asked what this would look like for the Council.

Councilmember Rusing stated being cognizant of protection of our natural beauty and supporting this vision is critical, and she provided information from the Open Space Policy which required 25% meaningful open space for annexation. She stated the policy is not being enforced..

Mr. Weidner asked how the 25% open space is accomplished and if that is enforced through Resolution, city code or the Charter.

Mayor Goode stated it is the city Charter.

Mayor Pro Tem Cantelme emphasized the open space is listed as meaningful to prevent the open space given to be unable to be used.

Recreation Services Director Joe Baynes stated the 25% requirement is enforced through Community Development plan approvals. He added that departments have been very proactive the last few years related to this matter and have experienced success in working with the developers to give meaningful open space and connectivity.

Mayor Goode commented on recent land acquisitions providing additional open space, the city's large trail systems and how these all impact the community's ecotourism.

Mr. Baynes added that there are many private and regional cooperative partnerships that help accomplish and maintain these trail systems.

Mr. Stephens asked how Council would like to see the goal tie into land acquisition, and commented on their commitment to the preservation of it's natural resources.

City Attorney Joseph Young stated that there should be clarification regarding the use of "meaningful" in terms of open space, and added that there have not been any annexations within the last two years.

Councilmember Rusing stated the importance of investing in the community and the preservation of Prescott's natural beauty, as well as the impact this have on quality of life.

Councilwoman Fruhwirth commented on the prioritization of a fires station as opposed to more open space.

Mayor Pro Tem Cantelme commented on the IGA and one time purchase of Glassford Dells.

Ms. Walton stated the current code allows for the 25% open space maintenance responsibility to be placed on the developments and not the city, this allows for the prioritization of the city's maintenance of public open space.

Councilmember Rusing stated the developments receive city services in exchange for the 25% open space agreement, but the open space requirements are not being enforced. This leads to the developers receiving services and benefits without reciprocating.

Ms. Walton stated the 25% open space is being enforced, she then provided the process through which this happens.

Mr. Baynes stated each development is on a case-by-case basis with the development engineers.

Mayor Pro Tem Cantelme asked how the 25% open space is calculated, and commented that initially the 25% requirement was implemented to prevent the overdevelopment of communities without consideration for quality of life as well as the spirit of Prescott's nature.

Councilmember Rusing asked that the topic of climate change be addressed. She requested including a statement to include community resiliency related to climate change.

Fire Chief Holger Durre stressed the importance of partnerships and the need to be proactive versus responsive. Which would lead to having a better informed community.

Mayor Goode mentioned the residential complaints regarding the planned burns.

Chief Durre provided an overview of the City's partnership with forest services, and the county. He also provided information on his goals and concerns regarding environmental threats to the City of Prescott.

Natural Environment

- * Enforcement of the 25% open space vs negotiate it away.
- * Perpetual agreement that open space acquisition will be open space in perpetuity.
- * Meaningful open space connectivity and wildlife corridors.
- * Regional cooperation and partnerships
- * Outdoor recreation

Beginning in DATE, through regional cooperation and partnerships the community will experience increased trail connectivity, outdoor recreation, and meaningful wildlife opportunities.

By 2028, through regional cooperation and partnerships and comprehensive risk assessment that builds a strategic mitigation, response, and recovery plan , the Prescott community will experience increased resiliency in planning for dealing with recovering from natural disaster. Resilience is the reduction of life loss, reductions of loss of economic, drivers, and reduction of damage to the natural environment.

Mr. Stephens stated that implementation plans are working documents which will evolve and staff and Council move toward achievement of these goals.

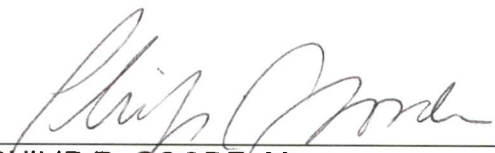
Councilwoman Fruhwirth requested the Strategic Plan be given a rebrand, allowing the community to differentiate from previous plans and allowing the Council and staff to be held accountable to the decisions made in the current Plan.

Mayor Goode stated Council has a clear target and goal to work with measurable results that will ensure staff understands how to move forward and achieve these goals and communicate this to the public so they are confident in the city's ability to manage their taxpayer dollars effectively and improve the quality of life here in the city, both now and in the near future and hopefully with our future.

Council and staff thanked Mr. Stephens and Mr. Weidner for their time, effort, and help with the City's Strategic Plan.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Goode adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.



PHILIP R. GOODE, Mayor

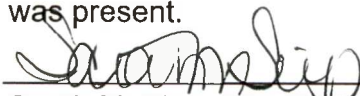
ATTEST:



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 February 16, 2024. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.



Sarah M. Siep, City Clerk

