



# City of Prescott

## Council Subcommittee on Water Issues

September 3, 2024 | 9:30 AM

201 N Montezuma Street  
Council Chambers, 3rd Floor  
Prescott, AZ 86301

### MINUTES

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Rusing called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

#### 2. ROLL CALL

Cathey Rusing, Chairperson  
Lois Fruhwirth, Member (Absent)  
Ted Gambogi, Member

#### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment will be accepted following each agenda item and are limited to three (3) minutes. Please complete a comment card and return it to the City Clerk, speakers will be called in the order received.

#### 4. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of the July 2, 2024 Water Issues Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION BY MEMBER GAMBOGI TO APPROVE THE JULY 2, 2024 MINUTES; SECONDED BY CHAIRPERSON RUSING: PASSED (2 - 0).**

- B. Presentation & Discussion Regarding the Amended 2022 Water Management Policy - Current Residential & Non-Residential Water Budget Overview for July 1, 2024 through August 22, 2024.

Brian Ruiz Water Resources and Environmental Services Manager presented the topic for discussion and reviewed the water policy tracking table showing one residential project of 0.17 AFY (acre-feet per year), two non-residential projects totaling 0.75 AFY and nine projects under existing water contracts/agreements totaling 1.60 AFY approved during the timeframe. Water remaining in the residential and non-residential budgets were 49.83 acre-ft/year and 24.25 acre-ft/year respectively.

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

- C. WSA24-041: A Water Service Agreement Application Submitted by Augie's, on Behalf of Owner Espire Sports, LLC. Location: APN 102-03-598P, Comprising 6.97 Acres, in T14N, R01W, Section 31, SW 1/4.

Mr. Ruiz presented the water service application for Augie's restaurant in the Espire Sports Complex within the mall located at East State Route 69 and Gateway Boulevard. The restaurant, about 6,300 square feet, was previously in

the Frontier Village shopping center and has moved to this new location. The project didn't require formal planning approval and only needed water service agreement processing. The estimated water demand for the restaurant is 1.67 acre-feet per year, lower than the previous 2.35 acre-feet due to the absence of landscaping at the new location.

Chairperson Rusing asked the applicant to provide more details regarding his restaurant's new location.

Augie Perry, restaurant owner, said they have just started the process, completed some architectural drawings and plan to submit them to the city for approval next week. He is hoping for an opening date by late this year or January next year. The restaurant will continue with the same brand, operating daily for lunch and dinner, similar to before but on a larger scale in a modern facility.

**MOTION BY MEMBER GAMBOGI TO FORWARD WSA24-041 TO COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL; SECONDED BY CHAIRPERSON RUSING: PASSED (2 - 0).**

- D. WSA24-049: A Water Service Agreement Application Submitted by Distinctive Homes and Architecture, on Behalf of Owners Dave & Kristen Deborde. Location: APN 102-03-061, Comprising 1.3 Acres, in T15N, R02W, Section 25, NE 1/4.

Mr. Ruiz introduced the item for an approximately 3,000 square foot building to manufacture concrete blocks and pavers, located near the airport. The facility will have minimal landscaping, with a 10-foot strip along Cirrus Drive, while most of the area will be used for storage and operations. A water demand analysis estimated usage at 1.85 AFY for manufacturing, with an additional 0.05 acre-feet for landscaping, totaling 1.9 acre-feet annually.

Tom Terry, Architect with Distinctive Homes stated that they are working to bring manufacturing to the area, specifically with a small-scale paver plant operation. The manufacturing will take place entirely within a simple metal building. The project is for a local landscaper who wants to manufacture his own pavers for use in his landscaping jobs.

Chairperson Rusing commented she is excited to see another occupant in the industrial park and this is a wonderful addition to the commercial business community. She asked for more details on the drainage plan for the property.

Mr. Terry responded that storm runoff will follow the drainage swale down to the detention basin for natural drainage.

**MOTION BY MEMBER GAMBOGI TO FORWARD WSA24-049 TO COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL; SECONDED BY CHAIRPERSON RUSING: PASSED (2 - 0).**

- E. Presentation & Discussion Regarding the 2023 Consumer Confidence Report.

Steve Olfers, Utility Manager, presented the report and reviewed the document for the Subcommittee and audience. He explained the water treatment process involves pumping water from wells, adding chlorine, and using a polishing process at one well to remove arsenic. Five wells are operated in Chino Valley



and three at the airport. Water sampling occurs throughout the year, measuring over 100 substances, with monthly tests for coliform and arsenic. EPA regulations require a report on any detected contaminants, with specific guidelines they must follow. The report includes ranges for contaminant levels and details on unregulated contaminant monitoring, including recent testing for lithium and PFAS compounds. Copies of the report are available on the city's website, at Public Works, the City Library and City Hall.

Member Gambogi asked if Prescott adds fluoride to the water.

Mr. Olfers responded only naturally occurring fluoride is in the City of Prescott's water, it is a policy decision whether to add fluoride or not.

Member Gambogi asked if there is a source that arsenic comes from.

Mr. Olfers responded that arsenic comes from natural sources subject to the groundwater sitting in the aquifer.

Member Gambogi asked for clarification on PFAS and PFOS.

Mr. Olfers responded the difference is that PFOA and PFOS are subcategories of PFAS.

Member Gambogi asked what the argument is for or against softening water.

Mr. Olfers responded that people generally prefer the taste of soft water, he does not believe there is anything overly negative about softened water.

Chairperson Rusing commented that the brochure points out that the City of Prescott met all applicable state and federal drinking water standards. She added that PRVs (Pressure regulator valves) are the responsibility of the homeowner and a good thing to check. She suggested advertising the data in the newspaper on the 100 water contaminants the city tests for. She added that we test for coliform (E. coli), which signals fecal contamination and can spread diseases like hepatitis, especially in areas with wells near septic systems, while our community hasn't had issues, we do monitor for E. coli. She asked if the city also tests for protozoa, which have caused serious health issues elsewhere, like in Phoenix.

Mr. Olfers responded it is not a requirement for our groundwater system, protozoa's and viruses are often found in surface water systems, open ponds, lakes and streams, having the correct concentration of chlorine takes care of protozoa's, viruses and bacteria.

Member of the public Peter Kroopnick addressed the Subcommittee as a member of the CWAG (Citizens Water Advocacy Group) and asked with what is the affect on available water supply with the airport well out of service due to PFAS compounds. He also asked if we monitor recharge water that is put back into the aquifer, and if biosolids are tested for PFAS.

Mr. Olfers responded that the city just went through our high demand season and



there were no problems meeting production levels without the airport well. Testing recharge is currently not a requirement at this time but may change in the near future. City biosolids go to the landfill and has been tested and there are some level of PFAS.

Member of the public Tom Sands and member of CWAG commented on water usage calculations. He asked if our landfills are lined if the biosolids are placed in the landfills. Fluoride is available in toothpaste if it is a personal concern. One downside of soft water is that people on a low sodium diet need to drink other water.

Mr. Olfers responded he is not sure if the landfills are lined.

Chairperson Rusing would like to see a question for chemicals added to the water service application.

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

F. Presentation & Discussion Regarding Recommended Study of Landscape Water Use and Wastewater Return Flow.

Leslie Graser, Water Resource Project Manager, provided a presentation to the Subcommittee regarding a recommendation brought forward from the recently dissolved Mayor's Commission for Water Policy Review and Monitoring, and approved by Council in March 2024. She reviewed the draft report concepts on landscape water use and wastewater return flows, and shared recommendations stemming from a 75% return flow requirement in the 2022 Water Management Policy, that was removed from the Amended 2022 Water Management Policy. Also, she reviewed A map showing various intensities of outdoor watering that occur within the city's water service area.

Chairperson Rusing asked if the golf courses use reclaimed water for watering.

Ms. Graser confirmed. She continued with a review of a map from the WRMM (water resource management model) showing the 461 irrigation meters. No return flows from Chino Valley and non-sewered areas. Ms. Graser displayed the areas that are in the required permanent recharge areas from Prop400 and shared a table showing the wastewater return flow analysis.

Chairperson Rusing thanked Ms. Graser for her presentation and collection of information. She commended her for her comment that we need to balance quality of life with our trees and plants.

Member Gambogi asked what people can do to not create more PFAS. The city has incentives to save water and wonders how widespread the knowledge is on those incentives. Education can be helpful.

Ms. Graser responded education is key and using water effectively is important.

Chairperson Rusing added that our water conservation program is very robust. We like to incentivize lower water usage and low maintenance landscaping.

Member of the public Peter Kroopnick asked if recreation services changed water meters in parks and wondered how much water that saved.

Ms. Graser responded that they are in constant communication with the recreation services department to periodically review the city park's water usage and amount of turf that might be an opportunity to switch to native vegetation.

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

**5. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STAFF**

Ms. Graser announced a grant for Water Management Planning from the Bureau of Reclamation was applied for and selected for award, funds of \$40,000 should be received around December 2024.

Mr. Ruiz thanked Ms. Graser for doing the work to get the grant and in turn doubled the funding.

Member Gambogi added that developers are required to use native landscape but homeowners are not held to the same standard, this could be an opportunity for incentive and education.

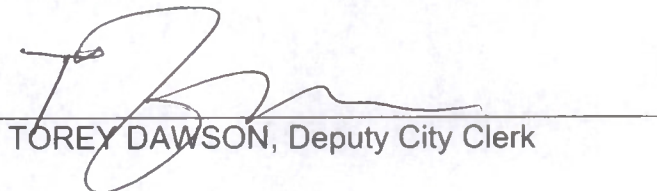
Mr. Sands commented that he heard that artificial turf contains PFAS and congratulated the award of the grant, CWAG is available to assist on the water management planning and offered his personal assistance as well.

Chairperson Rusing added that she is glad to see the collaboration between CWAG and City Council.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Rusing adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

ATTEST:

  
TOREY DAWSON, Deputy City Clerk

 10-1-24  
Cathey Rusing, Chairperson