



# City of Prescott

## City Council - Study Session

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December 10, 2024 | 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  
Connie Cantelme - Mayor Pro Tem  
Lois Fruhwirth - Councilwoman  
Ted Gambogi - Councilman (Arrived at 1:02 p.m.)  
Brandon Montoya - Councilman  
Eric Moore - Councilman  
Cathey Rusing - Councilmember

#### 3. DISCUSSION

##### A. Presentation & Discussion Regarding the Draft Long-Term Water Management Plan.

Water Resource & Environmental Services Manager Brian Ruiz introduced Water Consultant Herb Dishlip and Water Resources Manager Leslie Graser to provide a presentation to Council regarding the draft Water Management Plan. Water management is tremendously important to the city and the staff are happy to begin working on this matter. They would like feedback from the Council today to determine what core concepts the Council would like them to incorporate into the plan to align goals and interests as we move forward.

Mr. Dishlip continued the discussion regarding scoping the plan with effort and end products for a water resources plan. Focusing on the planning team's efforts from the outset will result in a targeted plan that meets established objectives and is most useful to the target audiences and users of the plan. There are legal obligations, current requirements and contracts to consider when drafting a plan as well.

Ms. Graser continued with an overview regarding the background of these issues which came from a recommendation from a dissolved Mayoral Ad Hoc Committee to review the 2022 Water Policy which was to create a long-term water management plan. Additionally, the Council Strategic Plan highlighted the importance of the development of a plan, as well as the General Plan which is currently under review. She continued with a review of the draft outline which was submitted for the awarded grant, and they have until February to finalize it.

Plan Completion - Dates Pending Grant or Document:

- \* December 2024 - February 2025 - consultant bid request and contracting
- \* December 2024 - March 2025 - complete plan pre-work and plan outline
- \* February 2025 - January 2026 - complete planning process through assessing data, developing strategies and proposing actions
- \* November 2025 - April 2026 - evaluate water management options through stakeholder discussions and public participation
- \* May 2026 - August 2026 - complete draft plan document
- \* August 2026 - December 2026 - complete final plan document

Team & Outreach:

- \* Consultants - specialized lead, legal, infrastructure, hydrologic modeling and report production
- \* City staff - public works, IT/GIS, legal, community development, executive team
- \* Council - city customers & public, regional partners, stakeholders

Questions for Council in Determining Plan:

#1. What kind of planning horizon is the city seeking (10, 25, 50 or 100 years, etc) - the proposal is 10 years for the near-term and 50 years for long-term

Mayor Goode commented that the D&O is considered a 10-year review process, so he feels that 50-years is an appropriate long-term time frame with a 25-year pause and review to see how the city has progressed.

Councilman Gambogi said he feels the staff's near and long term planning is appropriate.

Councilman Montoya concurred, he added that, eventually, given the 100-year water supply, it will be an appropriate long-term period after beginning at 50.

Councilwoman Fruhwirth agreed. She added that in the Strategic Plan the Council outlined the results they wanted, the other information is based on staff feedback to set the dates. She wants to be operationalizing something by FY2028 so that is something to consider in the planning path.

#2. What is the expected planning area/boundary - proposal is city corporate boundary + service area + general plan boundary; curious about a desire for additions like private systems in the area, the Town of Chino in its entirety, areas on wells that may no longer be viable etc.

Mayor Goode commented that he would like to see the city service area included.

Mayor Pro Tem Cantelme asked if potential annexations and growth would also be considered when crafting this plan.

Ms. Graser responded that it will have to be monitored throughout the timeline of the plan, likely reviewed every five years or so.

Mayor Goode commented that performance of the plan should be reviewed at least annually or potentially twice annually.



#3. Should Demand Management (conservation planning) goals include - extending further the current supplies to reduce capital outlay for additional supplies, lowering GPCD further than current ADWR requirements, addressing aquifer overdraft according to or beyond ADWR requirements.

Mayor Goode commented that current supplies need to be extended as much as possible, there is quite a bit of lowering GPCD that could be achieved and once those are put into place there will be people looking at results and determining ways to decrease their use.

Mr. Ruiz responded that the city's conservation plan is great, having a long-term plan like this takes all of that to an even higher level by looking at results and determines how to address that.

Councilwoman Fruhwirth concurred that while conservation is excellent, there are always ways to review and improve, about the need to be strategic with commercial and economic development. She also feels there is a quality of life that the general public does support, so the city can continue to educate and incentivize things.

Councilman Gambogi commented on the importance of education and demand management, which would help quite a bit.

#4. How will the Council remain active during the development of the plan - options include working with the Subcommittee on Water Issues, working with the City Manager's Office to workshop portions of the plan when timely, or other.

Mayor Goode commented that he would like periodic updates once the plan has been adopted.

Councilman Montoya added that returning to the Council as the plan is developed would also be appropriate to determine how to move forward with all portions of the plan. He thinks regular briefings to the whole Council are appropriate.

Councilwoman Fruhwirth commented that the Subcommittee is a working group for this type of thing which will help get them before the whole of Council more frequently.

Councilmember Rusing commented that the Water Issues Subcommittee already meets once a month and takes place in the public which is important.

Mayor Pro Tem Cantelme added that she would like to see this information on the city website.

#5. How does the Council envision the public participation process - for example provide surveys at key junctures for interested citizens/water customers/partners through Participate Prescott, form an advisory group, provide public meetings at key junctures, provide a public comment period before proposed Council adoption in July 2026.

Mayor Goode commented on how much he enjoyed the water smart meetings that took place at the library several years ago, as well as that analysis of use being included in the bills as a comparison tool could be helpful.

Councilman Montoya added that updates to the Water Issues Subcommittee would help with public engagement as well.

Councilmember Rusing suggested some educational workshops on xeriscaping.

Member of the public Tom Rusing addressed the Council regarding water being the number one concern not just in Arizona but across the country. He asked about how adaptive management would fit into the review of the plan over its total course. Outdoor water use is a big topic of discussion because it isn't reclaimable, and asked about enforcement of landscaping standards. He added that public surveys are typically not crafted well and these types of discussions are much more beneficial.

Ms. Graser responded that it will be part of the review process, it is not a set measure.

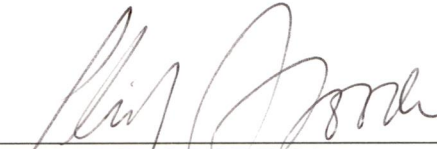
Member of the public Tony Hamer addressed the Council and commented on addressing the major issues first, particularly the Big Chino pipeline. Adopting a scenario planning approach is important, and have to be ahead of the curve. As it relates to public involvement, he feels the more, the better, to get innovative approaches.

Member of the public Yvonne Dorman addressed the Council regarding fire hydrants on Mullen Way.

***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 2:15 p.m.

  
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PHILIP R. GOODE, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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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

December 10, 2024. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

  
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Sarah M. Siep, City Clerk

