



City of Prescott

City Council - Study Session

January 14, 2025 | 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
Brandon Montoya - Councilman
Eric Moore - Councilman
Cathey Rusing - Councilmember

3. DISCUSSION

- A. Presentation & Discussion Regarding Establishment of a Citizens Sustainability & Resiliency Advisory Committee.

City Manager Dallin Kimble announced that Councilmember Rusing and Councilman Moore requested this item.

Councilmember Rusing stated that this has been in the works for many years and will be provided by a group of concerned citizens.

Quad City Climate Collaborative Board President Patrick Grady thanked the Council for their time and provided a presentation regarding the formation of a Sustainability and Resiliency Citizens Advisory Committee. He also introduced Board Member Kristen Law to the Council.

* Volunteer Committee comprised of members with expertise in sustainable practices

* Purpose - augment city resources and assist with implementation of FY25 Strategic Plan and 10-year general plan

* Genesis - unanimous approval in 2022 to commission a climate profile for the quad cities and Climate Action Options Report from 2023

Benefits:

* Provide expertise in conservation, wildlife management, renewables, energy policy, community planning, low impact development, economic benefit analysis

* Provide consolidated inputs from multiple stakeholders

* Research best practices with data and facts

- * Supplement staff resources
- * Examine budget saving opportunities, particularly in area of energy efficiency and conservation
- * Formalized Committee/working group demonstrates responsiveness to top citizen quality of life input
- * General Plan Alignment - resiliency and sustainability chapter (environmental planning and climate/energy use), community connected chapter (wildlife corridors/open space), economic competitiveness chapter (recreational tourism/workforce recruitment/sustainable growth and development)
- * Strategic Plan Alignment - Priority #4 Preserving the Natural Environment, Priority #2 Economic (attracting new business, implementing municipal energy audit)

Engagement Concepts:

- * Research & review best practices, propose actions and projects in support of energy conservation
- * Organization Option I - Mayor and Council authorized Citizens Committee
 - 7-11 members
 - City staff appointed support the mission and function
 - Official committee creates credibility and accountability
- * Organizational Option II - Citizens Working Group on Sustainability
 - Delve into specific sustainability projects with city staff
 - Nimble with flexible schedule and reporting
- * Requesting Council support to create this group

Councilmember Rusing thanked the presenters for their work and offer of partnership. She commented on the importance of saving energy and stated that there is room for improvement in the way the city handles energy and what it spends on utilities.

Councilman Gambogi commended the presenters on their professional presentation, he asked about tax credits and rebates on energy expenses.

Ms. Law responded that there are tax credits from the Department of Energy particularly for rural communities that the city would have to apply for on specific projects.

Councilman Montoya echoed Council comments on the presentation, he asked about fire danger in areas outside of the city's boundaries. While he appreciates organizing it under the city, he wonders if a regional collaboration method might be a better way to approach this because a disaster like a fire doesn't only stay within city boundaries.

Mr. Grady agreed, he added that they have approached the County as well for something along these lines. Feels that at the local level it is important to delve into projects that can help address these issues.

Councilmember Rusing commented that interagency cooperation is very important, need to start first with ourselves in being a catalyst and then bring in other agencies. She supports forming this Committee.

Mayor Pro Tem Cantelme also thanked the presenters for coming in today, she agrees that a regional effort is important but locally addressing the weak points in the city are important.

Councilwoman Fruhwirth stated that with her background she is used to a drive for cost savings and was happy to see in their materials targeted cost savings. The city's resources are limited, but she feels we are blessed with a community of retirees who are free and able to help and working groups is the breakthrough to staff over Committees.

Councilman Moore stated that the Council is very receptive to this message and would like to move forward in some capacity and feels that direction needs to be provided to staff on how to move forward.

Mayor Goode stated that he supports Option II, there are a number of beneficial targeted projects that could be utilized. A citizens committee with a broad number of members could put them in the same position as the Workforce Housing Committee, a working group that teams with staff could help keep things focused and moving in a positive direction.

Mr. Kimble echoed Council comments, he stated that he thinks he is hearing from the Council that they have an interest in pursuing these activities which will drive cost savings through collaboration with the community.

Councilman Montoya echoed comments regarding Option II being a good first step for this type of work.

Councilman Moore stated it would be helpful to have direction from management on what would be productive as it relates to this.

Mr. Kimble added that for staff formal Committees tend to be additional work and bosses, where working groups can be more helpful. This would be an opportunity to work with the community to get results.

Councilmember Rusing stated that it would be helpful to have consultants from Schneider Electric here to do a presentation.

Mayor Pro Tem Cantelme asked if there is a downside in forming Option II.

Mr. Kimble responded that grant applications would come directly from the city and the group would help write them. It depends what the Council wants the group to do.

City Attorney Joseph Young added that if the Council creates the group we are subject to open meeting law and creating a Committee, if staff and the citizens do so it is a working group and therefore not subject to open meeting law.

Councilwoman Fruhwirth stated that a working group that is teaming directly with staff and can work cross-departmentally as well.

Council consensus in support of Option II.

Member of the public Tom Rusing addressed the Council regarding being part of the local working group that analyzed the Regional Climate Assessment from UofA, their recommendation was to have local groups have the cities tackle these issues. He added that regional cooperation in these things is very important.

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

B. Presentation & Discussion Regarding a Potential Amendment to City Code Related to Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers.

Councilman Moore commented that this issue was brought forward by a constituent several months ago, and received a second from Councilman Montoya. The concern is over noise but also in the environmental impacts of leaf blowers. He stated that "small engines" like leaf blowers emit far more pollutants than a gas powered engine. More than 100 cities in the US have banned or limited the use of these types of small engines for lawn and garden care. Additionally, there are concerns in the city related to noise more specifically from cars but also from these types of equipment. Research shows that one hour operation of a leaf blower is equivalent to a car going 1,100 miles. He is in favor of this type of restriction.

Councilmember Rusing stated that these leaf blowers are damaging hearing and the environment. She recommended that the city become more proactive in education on these subjects before banning them.

Councilman Montoya stated that he feels it is worth having a discussion but he isn't in support on an outright ban at this point because he wants more information. Need to have staff look into it and see what other communities are doing and what any unintended consequences may be. Perhaps something similar to the water conservation program would be beneficial for this type of issue.

Councilman Gambogi stated that this Council is having a problem setting priorities, during fire-wise processes the equipment is not electric. There are far bigger fish to fry than this, he doesn't feel this is a priority.

Councilwoman Fruhwirth echoed Councilman Gambogi's comments, this is up to private citizens to manage and she is worried about unintended consequences of something like this. She appreciates the comments and maybe this is something that gets added for the working group, but she doesn't want to make it a priority for staff at this point.

Councilman Moore commented that this is a small ask and realizes there are bigger issues but this is in alignment with the Strategic Plan of this Council.

Mayor Goode commented that he finds gas powered leaf blowers annoying but if you want to have a small company work on your property they are faster and more cost effective. He echoed comments by other members of the Council that

the marketplace will continue to improve over time and ultimately make the decision for citizens with those improvements.

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 2:09 p.m.



PHILIP R. GOODE, Mayor

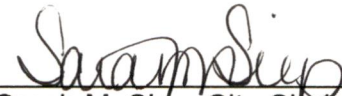
ATTEST:



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 January 14, 2025. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.



Sarah M. Siep, City Clerk

