

City of Prescott

City Council - Workshop Meeting



August 18, 2025 | 3:00 PM
201 N Montezuma Street
City Council Chambers, 1st Floor
Prescott, AZ 86301

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Goode called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Phil Goode - Mayor
Connie Cantelme - Mayor Pro Tem
Lois Fruhwirth - Councilwoman
Ted Gambogi - Councilman
Patrick Grady - Councilman
Brandon Montoya - Councilman
Eric Moore - Councilman

3. COUNCIL ACTION RELATED TO 2025 CITY OF PRESCOTT PRIMARY ELECTION

- A. Approval of the Official Canvass of the City of Prescott Primary Election Held on August 5, 2025.

City Clerk Sarah Thornhill introduced the item which is to approve the canvass provided by the County Elections Office for the 2025 Primary Election. She stated that based on the majority calculations in the Charter all five Council candidates will proceed to the General Election for a runoff.

City Attorney Joseph Young confirmed, and summarized, that the City Charter supersedes State Statute in method and means of the conduct of local elections.

Councilwoman Fruhwirth acknowledged the Prop482 and Prop484 results from the Primary Election. She highlighted the work by city staff to get information on Home Rule (Prop482) out to the public, resulting in a very high turnout and approval on the proposition.

Mayor Pro Tem Cantelme asked the City Attorney about the process of updating the City Charter.

Mr. Young responded that it is up to the Council, or by a citizen initiative. The Council needs to discuss how they would like to revise or change the Charter as well. Staff can take that direction and make revisions for approval at a future election.

Councilman Montoya commented that what the Council is doing today is

important. Even when you lose an election or the results are not what you wanted, you accept the results and don't try to change the rules at the end. He is proud to be part of the process even though he didn't win the election.

Councilwoman Fruhwirth asked about Article IX, Section 6 and discussed the fact that the majority calculation has been done consistently. She feels that the language is important, but she doesn't want to change the intent of the Charter because it whittles the funnel down on what can be a large number of candidates in the Primary Election. She applauds the role of the primary versus the role of the General Election. She stated that she is open to an amendment, but wants to make sure that it is about making the language more clear and not changing the Charter.

Councilman Gambogi commented to say that there are now election deniers in Prescott. He believes the election process the city has is solid and has been around a long time. He doesn't want to fall prey to questioning the results because they didn't turn out the way some people may have wanted them to.

Mayor Goode opened the floor to public comment.

Member of the public Ralph Hess addressed the Council and stated concerns related to the Charter language, as well as the interaction with the County Recorder and the City Charter. He stated that the term "valid ballots" is not defined in the Charter, and suggested that the Charter language be amended.

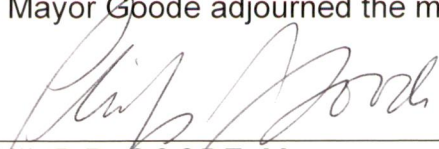
Member of the public Howard Mechanic addressed the Council regarding having a Primary and a General Election. His experience over the last 24 years is that there have been no candidate forums or newspaper articles after the Primary Election, and it ends up being a dead period. The Council needs to look into instant runoff voting, or rank choice voting.

Member of the public Ken Bennett addressed the Council echoing Councilwoman Fruhwirth's comments regarding a Primary Election in which there are a higher number of candidates. While the terminology and language may need to be revised and clarified, the intent of the Charter should not be changed.

MOTION BY COUNCILMAN MONTTOYA TO APPROVE THE PRIMARY ELECTION CANVASS; SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MOORE: PASSED (7 - 0)

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Goode adjourned the meeting at 3:27 p.m.



PHILIP R. GOODE, Mayor

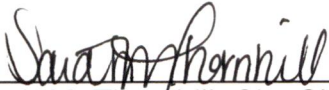
ATTEST:



SARAH M. THORNHILL, 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 August 18, 2025. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.



Sarah M. Thornhill, City Clerk

