



City of Prescott

City Council - Study Session

November 4, 2025 | 1:00 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 1:00 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. DISCUSSION

- A. Discussion & Possible Council Direction Regarding Formation of a Council Subcommittee for Hiring Decision Reviews.

Mayor Pro Tem Cantelme commented that this was a request to encourage more communication and understanding between the department heads and Council, only a panel for department heads and would serve as an advisory group for the City Manager to encourage hiring highly qualified people. Should be three Council members or the Mayor and two other members.

Councilman Moore stated that the Council is a legislative body and not administrative. Hiring is the decision of the City Manager, and he doesn't feel it is a role for the City Council to get involved in. He would need a compelling explanation as to why the Council should be involved in hiring.

Mayor Pro Tem Cantelme responded by reviewing the Council-Manager form of government regarding the Council being responsible for the policy decisions of their municipality by receiving updates from the City Manager. The oversight would produce a better outcome in terms of hiring.

Councilman Montoya asked the City Manager and City Attorney for their opinion on this. He is concerned that there is a legal concern about not honoring what the charter says about the Council-Manager form of government. Ultimately he doesn't think this is a good idea, and is an overreach of the Council's responsibilities.

Councilman Gambogi commented that level setting is important. This Council is

like the Board of Directors and the City Manager is the CEO. There is not a good track record for micro-managing staff and the City Manager.

Mayor Goode stated that the city is Council-Manager form of government, and it is ultimately up to the City Manager to hold the staff accountable and if he isn't doing that or making poor decisions, then it is up to the Council to hold that person accountable. However, sometimes there have been questionable hires of department heads that made poor decisions and had to be replaced, and might be justified in having a review/advisory committee depending on where the community is at.

Councilman Moore responded to Mayor Pro Tem's comments about the League document and stated that nowhere in that did it address hiring. The Council needs to abide by the city charter and this proposal should not move forward.

Councilman Grady stated that he has been part of large organizations as well as smaller ones, and everyone needs to keep in mind what is the role of the City Manager and what is the role of the Council. He doesn't feel it would be appropriate to have this proposal move forward.

Councilman Montoya stated that if he was a seasoned municipal employee and went into an interview with Council members involved, that would be a red flag for him, which is something he thinks it is important to consider.

Councilwoman Fruhwirth commented that she is not in favor of this, it is an over-step of the Council's rules and responsibilities. However, she does think that what is included in the Charter. (Article III, Section 3) under city manager roles and responsibilities and taking a look at the city's merit system would be appropriate to produce the roles the citizens expect, but wouldn't go any further than that.

Mayor Pro Tem Cantelme commented that it is easier to work with the city manager on these issues than to fire the city manager if he is not performing. She will agree to disagree with the rest of Council on this though.

City Manager Dallin Kimble stated that this is an important conversation to look at how the Council and City Manager are working together, but he worries about the insertion of politics into the city's hiring practices which warps accountability a bit. Additionally, in recent memory, the city has done well in both hiring and sometimes not hiring for important roles.

Councilman Gambogi stated that this is not an effort to work together, it is interference and shouldn't be discussed again.

Mayor Goode stated that the consensus to not proceed is clear.

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

- B. Presentation & Discussion Regarding Adoption of the 2024 Building and Fire Codes.

Chief Building Official Doug Stawarski provided a presentation to the Council regarding the adoption of the 2024 International Family of Codes including building codes, fuel gas code, mechanical code, plumbing code, residential code and national electrical code.

Strategic Adoption Goal:

- * Fire and Building worked to reduce amendments to the model codes
- * International Code Council (ICC) develops the model codes through a Governmental Consensus process, goal is to adopt as is
- * Adopt the family of codes as minimum standards across the region
- * Provide uniformity across the region

Multi-Jurisdictional Process:

- * Prescott
- * Sedona
- * Cottonwood
- * Camp Verde
- * Dewey-Humbolt
- * Prescott Valley
- * Yavapai County

Process:

- * Multi-jurisdictional committee meetings
- * Internal advisory code change review - building, community development operations team, fire department
- * YCCA - multiple meetings in summer and fall
- * Community meetings and public comment - two meetings hosted by YCCA
- * Building Safety Advisory & Appeals Board

International Residential Code (IRC):

- * Chapter 3 Building Criteria New Tool - Residential Snow Loads (use of ASCE 7 Hazard Tool), residential snow loads based on the specific address as determined by the tool, mapped seven (7) locations in Prescott and ranged from 30.1 to 47.6 lbs per square foot
- * Section R506 Concrete Floors - a vapor retarder shall be installed as required and specified by the certified geotechnical engineer and must be identified in the geotechnical soils report
- * Deletion - Section P2503.4 Building Sewer Testing, Section P2709.3 Shower Lining Testing
- * Addition - Section G2408.7 Future Gas Stubs
- * Section G2415.13 - Trenches (new section)
- * Existing Amendment - Section P2603.5.2 Water in Attics
- * New Amendment - E3901.4.3 Receptacle Outlet Location; receptacles are allowed below the countertop at a maximum of 12" below the top of the countertop surface overhang does not exceed 1.5 inches

International Building Code (IBC):

- * Section 102 Applicability (new section) - 102.1.1 Recommendations; the City of Prescott shall deem any recommendation from a registered design professional included in the construction documents to be a requirement

- * Section 105.2 Work Exempt from Permit (amendment added to exemptions)
- * Section 105.5 Expiration (additional sections added)
- * Additional Fees (Section 109.2)
- * Section 109.3.1 Plan Review Fees - no changes
- * Section 109.4.1 Additional Fees Investigation
- * Section 110.7, Section 111.1 - Inspections and Certificates of Occupancy
- * Building Safety Advisory & Appeals Board - reworked part of the Ordinance to incorporate the IBC verbiage with City's ordinance to align with the Fire Departments Board of Appeals as well (will be part of the Building Codes rather than it's own ordinance)

International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC):

- * Section 409.3.2 Individual Buildings - adding language "the gas line for shut off must break ground prior to...the building and the shutoff installed as well as the dielectric union to the exterior of the building."

International Plumbing Code (IPC):

- * Section 608.14 Backflow Protection — no change
- * Section 714 Backwater Valves

Councilman Grady asked about staff's comments regarding a "minimum code".

Mr. Stawarski responded that jurisdictions can heavily amend the codes and get away from the International standards, which leads to a lot of amendments and confusion.

Mayor Goode commented that Prescott has unique topography and situations that can impact development.

Mayor Pro Tem Cantelme commented that she does see the benefits of some of these changes, but it is also all about money and making sure that everyone is in compliance and protecting the consumer so standardization is good.

Fire Marshal Anthony Valdez continued the presentation regarding the Fire Code revisions. Purpose was safety first with community focus and efficiency and alignment. A unified approach between building/fire, reflects the latest national safety standards, provides consistency for developers/contractors/inspectors, reduces risk and liability to the city, enhance community safety by addressing emerging risks and modern hazards and provides uniformity across multi-jurisdictional region.

International Fire Code:

- * Section 102.5 Application of Residential Code - added Section 903.2.8.4 of this code
- * Section 1.207.1.1 Conflicts with Other City of Prescott Design Standards - where this code conflicts with any applicable sections of the City of Prescott General Engineering Standards, the most restrictive provisions shall apply at the discretion of the fire code official who may consult with City Engineer for guidance
- * Section 105.5.1 Temporary Membrane Structures/Special Event Structures and

Tents - an operational permit is required to operate an air-supported membrane structure, inflatable amusement devices, a temporary special event structure or a tent having an area in excess of 400 square feet

* Section 503.1.1 Buildings & Facilities

* Section 503.1.2 Additional Access and Egress Roads - adds in egress roads where it is not already addressed (apply to new developments and new commercial)

* Section 5607 Blasting Code - current model code provisions address the majority of the existing Prescott Blasting Code, therefore, staff removed most of the existing blasting code while keeping pertinent local provisions that are not addressed in the model code

* Wildland Urban Interface will be it's own amendment and be brought back in Q1 of 2026

Member of the public Sandy Griffis addressed the Council regarding how essential codes are and expressed her support of this approach, all the conversations over the last several months have been meaningful to get to this position. Council should be proud of the work that staff has done.

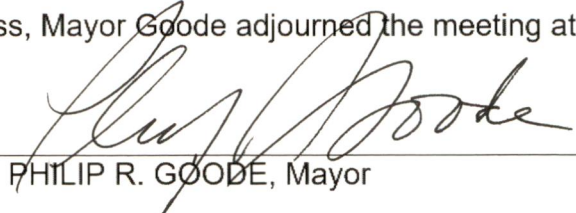
Member of the public Angela Bammann addressed the Council and asked where the new amendments could be found to be reviewed in full.

Division Chief Valdez stated that he will provide them directly to her.

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 2:27 p.m.

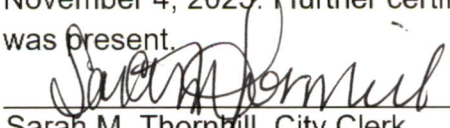

PHILIP R. GOODE, Mayor

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 November 4, 2025. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.


Sarah M. Thornhill, City Clerk

