City of Prescott

City Council - Voting Meeting

February 10, 2026 | 3:00 PM
201 N Montezuma Street
City Council Chambers, 1st Floor
Prescott, AZ 86301

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rusing called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Cathey Rusing - Mayor
Lois Fruhwirth - Mayor Pro Tem
Mary Frederickson - Councilwoman
Ted Gambogi - Councilman
Jim Garing - Councilman (Excused)
Patrick Grady - Councilman
Jay Ruby - Councilman

3. INTRODUCTIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Fruhwirth welcomed the former Council members who are present in the Chambers. She added that long-term water planning plays an important role in supporting Prescott's economy and quality of life, and with that in mind, the city's newest information sheet, 2024 Baseline: Conservation, is now available and highlights how residents and the city work together to conserve our local water supplies. Residents can learn more and explore additional water planning resources at prescott-az.gov and participateprescott.com. With conservation and cost savings in mind, she reminded residents that they may receive their city utility bills via email instead of through the mail. Instructions on how to sign up for paperless billing are available on the city's website and will also be included in the memo for Item 9.E. on today's agenda. Going paperless is a convenient way to stay up to date and reduce paper waste.

Mayor Pro Tem Fruhwirth continued with a review of upcoming city events. She announced that the Prescott Public Library invites families to a special Read Me A Story: Live Author Storytime on Saturday, February 28 at 11:00 a.m. Local children's authors and illustrators will share stories, followed by crafts, themed snacks, and book signings. This free event is designed for children ages 3 to 12, with registration available online, at the Youth Desk, or by phone. The city will host a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event for residential trash customers from March 2 through March 27, 2026. Pre-registration is required for this curbside pickup service, and all qualifying residents must register online. Accepted items include household chemicals, batteries, paints, and other hazardous materials. More information, including how to check eligible items, is available at PrescottRecycles.com.

4. INVOCATION - Pastor Andrew Wilkinson with Restoration Church

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Councilman Gambogi

6. PROCLAMATIONS

A. Celebrating the America 250 Committee & Recognizing Ceremonial Events in the City of Prescott
Mayor Rusing presented the Proclamation.

B. Support Your Local Food Bank Day
Councilman Grady presented the Proclamation.

7. OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

A. Cynthia Wagner addressed the Council regarding recent peaceful demonstrations on the square and potential restrictions on lawful public assembly. The recent gathering was local residents, not outside agitators to peacefully gather and express their views. She understands there have been concerns regarding noise, business impacts and alleged busing in of people and expressed her opinion that these gatherings foster a strong sense of community and bring people into our downtown area. Any effort to restrict these rights would be in violation of the constitution, the city should engage in open dialogue with the community to ensure that these things continue on appropriately.

B. Maria Lynam addressed the Council regarding a letter she recently sent to the Council and read. She discussed the constitutional provisions that allow peaceful protest, inhibiting this right would be a violation of citizens rights. She thanked the city attorney and police department for their dedication to work with the citizens and community.

C. Harper Ava Arias addressed the Council stating that she feels the values of the Prescott community is slipping away. There has been harmful behavior to transgender and non-binary citizens that goes unaddressed here. Requested safety, dignity and accountability for all citizens.

D. Beth Ackermann addressed the Council regarding funding sources for land purchases at the airport for water infrastructure projects, and whether city or grant money was used.

E. Truly Bracken addressed the Council regarding the lease amendment that was included in the published packet on Thursday, she requested a Study Session for future discussions on the lease agreement and amendment.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION BY COUNCILMAN GAMBOGI TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 8.A. THROUGH 8.G., EXCLUDING ITEMS 8.B. AND 8.G.; SECONDED BY MAYOR RUSING: PASSED (6 - 0)

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes from the January 20, 2026 Council Strategic Planning Workshop, the January 21, 2026 Council Strategic Planning Workshop, the January 27, 2026 Executive Session, the January 27, 2026 Study Session, and the January 27, 2026 Voting Meeting.

B. Approval of City Contract No. 2026-064 with Granicus LLC for Website Hosting & Other Services for Experience Prescott. Funding is Budgeted & Available Through Transient Occupancy (Bed) Tax Funds.

Councilwoman Frederickson pulled the Item for further discussion and commented that the invoice attached to the contract has a different number for the cost of services being provided than what is in the contract. She asked staff to address this.

Community Outreach Director John Heiney responded and commented that the contract structure allowed for certain credits to be applied, and service hour credits were applied. These credits were listed in the invoice because they were part of the original proposal.

MOTION BY COUNCILWOMAN FREDERICKSON TO APPROVE CITY CONTRACT NO. 2026-064; SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM FRUHWIRTH: PASSED (6 - 0)

C. Adoption of Resolution No. 2026-1973 Approving City Contract No. 2026-153, an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Between the City of Prescott and the Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe for Law Enforcement Services.

D. Approval of City Contract No. 2026-170 for a Vehicle Loan Agreement Between Prescott Fire Department and Prescott Firefighter's Charities.

E. Approval of City Contract No. 2026-163 with DATAMATX for Utility Billing Printing & Mailing using Hanover County Contract #26-14-3308 in the Annual Approximate Amount of $35,000 for Printing Costs and $144,000 for Postage Costs. Funding is Available in the Finance Department Budget.

F. Approval of City Contract No. 2023-094A2, an Amendment to City Contract No. 2023-094 with Empire Southwest, LLC, to Add Funds in the Amount of $195,000.00 for City-Wide Generator Maintenance & Repair.

G. Approval for the Community Development Department to Accept Federal Historic Preservation Fund Certified Local Government (CLG) Pass Through Grant from Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for Funding from Federal Fiscal Year 2025.

Mayor Pro Tem Fruhwirth pulled this item from the Consent Agenda for further discussion. She stated that staff is working on a Historic Preservation Master Plan and this grant will help in that.

Planning Manager Alex Bramlette confirmed and added that this will be discussed further at the February 24 Study Session. A consultant will review the plan in its totality and then the LDC, ordinances, etc will be updated.

MOTION BY MAYOR PRO TEM FRUHWIRTH TO APPROVE GRANT ACCEPTANCE; SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN GRADY: PASSED (6 - 0)

9. LIQUOR LICENSE

A. Public Hearing and Consideration for a New Series 10 Beer and Wine Store Liquor License Application from Ajayadeep Singh, Applicant, for ARCO AMPM. Location: 286 Walker Road.

MOTION BY MAYOR RUSING TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING; SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM FRUHWIRTH: PASSED (6 - 0)

MOTION BY MAYOR RUSING TO APPROVE ITEM 9.A.; SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM FRUHWIRTH: PASSED (6 - 0)

10. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Adoption of Four (4) Ordinances & Seven (7) Resolutions Updating Language Related to City of Prescott Boards, Committees and Commissions as Follows: 1) Ordinance No. 2026-1930 (Board of Adjustment); 2) Ordinance No. 2026-1931 (Planning & Zoning Commission); 3) Ordinance No. 2026-1932 (Prescott Preservation Commission) 4) Ordinance No. 2026-1933 (Standing Committees); 5) Resolution No. 2026-1966 (BCC Master); 6) Resolution No. 2026-1967 (Airport Advisory Committee); 7) Resolution No. 2026-1968 (CDBG Citizens Advisory Committee); 8) Resolution No. 2026-1969 (Civic Enhancemnt Committee); 9) Resolution No. 2026-1970 (Pedestrian, Bicycle & Traffic Advisory Committee); 10) Resolution No. 2026-1971 (Tourism Advisory Committee); 11) Resolution No 2026-1972 (Workforce Housing Committee).

City Clerk Sarah Thornhill provided a presentation to the Council regarding the proposed updates for City Boards, Commissions and Committees (BCCs). She stated that this item is an administrative cleanup that will do the following:
* Ensure consistent language used in all BCC’s in accordance with the Master BCC resolution and applicable code section for standing committees (1-13)
* Align all BCC terms to end in March to facilitate one annual recruitment for expiring terms (some BCC terms expire in different months at this time)
* Updated attendance language (absent more than 3 meetings in a 12-month period)
* Provide more autonomy for BCC’s in allowing them to nominate and elect Chair/Vice-Chair in April of each year by vote of their own membership (currently there are several BCCs that select their own Chair and Vice-Chair and some that do not, this will provide consistency) (of 42 municipalities that responded to an inquiry from the City Clerk's Office all but one follow this same standard)
* Language added to address mid-year vacancies
* Establishes the date for the Annual OML Training taking place in April
* Rescinds and repeals old resolutions and ordinances with this update

She added that during review of the packet materials Section VI of the TAC Resolution was called out because the language would indicate that the Council liaison is a voting member which is not allowed, so staff will update that section to read "...and one (1) member of the general public" to avoid this issue.

Mayor Rusing thanked staff for working on this, she thinks the term ends and beginnings is a good item to clarifiy. She also asked if staff could include a disclaimer somewhere that city BCCs are non-partisan.

Ms. Thornhill confirmed that information can be added to the website and on the applications.

Councilman Gambogi commented that this is a great improvement.

Mayor Pro Tem Fruhwirth stated that she liked the cleanup on these items, and asked about the staggered terms. She also asked about the Chair and Vice Chair, stating that she is concerned regarding those appointments being handled by the members of the BCCs.

Ms. Thornhill responded that some of the Boards are already appointing their own Chair and Vice Chair, so this change will add consistency for all groups and bring the city into alignment with most other municipalities in Arizona.

Councilwoman Frederickson commented that the responsibilities didn't align with her experience in five years on the Board of Adjustment, Article A Chapter 1-7-4. She suggested there be language that would allow a person to understand what they would be applying for and what they would look at.

Community Development Director Chelsea Walton addressed "special exemptions" which is a term included in the LDC. The intent of the cleanup isn't to speak to what is most common, but this can be addressed in future amendments.

Mayor Rusing commented that it would be appropriate to have language out for responsibilities.

Ms. Thornhill added that these details could also be included on the BCC landing pages for applicants.

City Attorney Joseph Young responded that the Chair could be removed by the Committee if they wanted to do so.

Councilwoman Frederickson stated that she is uncomfortable regarding the attachment for the BOA being silent on their duties where the P&Z is more specific.

Councilman Ruby commented that staff had done a wonderful job in standardizing the language and moving Prescott into the 21st Century.

Member of the public Stacey Brown addressed the Council and stated that she thinks these changes are wonderful. She feels all local land use decisions should be the Council's decision and not with BCCs, more clearly defining what the expectations of the city versus the BCCs are.

Mr. Young stated that the attachments to all of these Ordinances and Resolutions were included on the previous documents, the BOA kept having more responsibilities added to it that are directly through code. The changes are only to the aspects discussed and this could come back.

MOTION BY MAYOR RUSING TO ADOPT ALL ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS WITH THE NOTED REVISION TO RESOLUTION NO. 2026-1971; SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER RUBY: PASSED (6 - 0)

B. Adoption of Resolution No. 2026-1975 Establishing the Charter Review Committee as a Standing Committee.

City Clerk Sarah Thornhill introduced the item and stated that it was requested by two members of the Council.

Councilman Ruby commented that the BCCs should be able to bring forward their ideas to the whole Council, this Committee should be able to continue on even beyond the term of the Mayor because the Charter is a living document that can be looked at regularly.

Councilman Gambogi stated that the city elected a Mayor not a monarch and this Committee should continue. The previous group got twelve of thirteen amendments passed.

Mayor Rusing commented that the Charter doesn't need to be worked on year round.

City Attorney Joseph Young stated that Mayoral Ad Hocs are allowed for in the Charter and run with the term of the Mayor and do not go in perpetuity.

Mayor Pro Tem Fruhwirth stated that the Charter is a constitution and this group does not need to be a Standing Committee. The Mayor has a two-year term to do what they promised the voters they would get done.

Councilwoman Frederickson commented that it seems to her that the concern is less with the duration of the committee versus what comes before the Council for consideration, the desire is to have their recommendations come to the Council and the Council determine whether they become a ballot measure or not.

Mr. Young stated that the term and purposes are limited to what the Mayor sees fit. If the Council wants to bypass the Mayor and the nature of the Committee they could do that, they can do so and this is the means by which the Council would do that.

Councilman Grady commented that he likes the independence that goes with a Standing Committee and will allow greater opportunity for the whole Council to review the recommendations, it will have the life that the council determines it should.

Councilman Gambogi added that the current committee should roll over into the Standing Committee, they can determine how often and how frequently they meet.

Councilman Ruby commented that a good reason for this Committee is the state legislature passing legislation that doesn't allow the city to have agency over land use items. This Standing Committee could be looking at those types of things to help protect the city's interest.

Member of the public Stacey Brown commented that the Charter is the Constitution for the city and the fact that it hasn't been amended in a long time is part of the problem with the division in this country.

MOTION BY COUNCILMAN GAMBOGI TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2026-1975; SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER RUBY: PASSED (4 - 2) MAYOR RUSING AND MAYOR PRO TEM FRUHWIRTH DISSENTING

C. Approval of City Contract No. 2025-066A2, an Amendment to City Contract No. 2025-066 with Kimley-Horn and Associates, LLC, for Final Design Services for the Effluent & Wastewater Pipeline & SR89 Improvements Project. Funding is Budgeted & Available in the Wastewater and Street Funds, and the Final Dollar Amount will be Dependent Upon which Alternative Option is Selected by the Council.

Public Works Director Gwen Rowitsch provided a presentation to the Council regarding the Effluent and Wastewater Pipeline & SR89 Improvements Project which has been discussed with three Councils to date.

<u>Improtant Dates:</u>
* Study Session - June 27, 2023
* Public Survey - June through Nov. 2023
* Open House - Sept. 6, 2023
* Open House - Oct. 4, 2023
* Study Session - Dec. 12, 2023
* Adoption of Resolution No. 2024-1876 - Feb. 13, 2024
* Request for Statement of Qualifications - March through July 2024
* Council Approval of Kimley-Horn 15% Design Contract - Nov. 19, 2024
* Design Ranking Advisory Group (DRAG) - 3 Meetings Feb. through March 2025
* Study Session - April 8, 2025
* Study Session - July 8, 2025
* Comment Period - July through Oct. 2025
* Public Hearing #1 - Aug. 26, 2025
* Public Hearing #2 - Oct. 1, 2025

<u>Roadway Alternatives:</u>
* Improve sight lines
* Right-out only within 1,500 feet of existing turnaround
* Taper extension at Southbound Phippen roundabout
* Frontage road with acceleration lane north of Willow Lake roundabout
* Willow Lake roundabout southbound approach realignment
* Consolidate access points (driveways and medians)
* No intersecting streets within the narrows

Required Safety Improvements:
* Improve sight lines
* Right-out only within 1,500 feet of existing turnaround
* Taper extension at Southbound Phippen roundabout
* Frontage road with acceleration lane north of Willow Lake roundabout
* Willow Lake roundabout southbound approach realignment (this was the first roundabout built in Prescott)
* Consolidate access points (driveways and medians); there are no intersecting streets within the narrows

Mayor Pro Tem Fruhwirth asked about walls being placed in front of the rocks.

Capital Program Manager Tim Sherwood responded that he saw that same post on Facebook last night, and he clarified that there is a retaining wall identified in the proposal. They will be off the Old Hwy89 exit which cannot be widened or improved without encroaching onto the adjacent properties. This will address that issue and will not be visible from the roadway. The mobile home park is significantly lower than the roadway, so this is the best and safest option.

Alternative 2 - Non-Widening Options:
* Alternative 2A (Ranked #14)
    - $25,030,524
    - Single roundabout within the corridor
    - Right-outs within 1,500 feet of the new roundabout
* Alternative 2B (Ranked #10)
    - $25,241,372
    - Two roundabouts within the corridor
    - Right-outs within 1,500 feet of new roundabout
* Alternative 2C (Ranked #15)
    - $24,848,476
    - Acceleration lane at Lillian Lane
    - "Michigan" left and p-turn between Calvary and Twisted Trail (no trucks/trailers)
    - Acceleration lane near Old Hwy 89A
    - Right-outs within 1500 feet of turnaround

Mayor Rusing asked about full closure of the road without widening versus the option to have a lane open.

Ms. Rowitsch responded that these discussions regarding full closure can certainly continue, however, she had Mr. Sherwood review a to-scale model highlighting equipment, trenching, and safety barriers which leaves 14'4" width at most from the edge of the barrier. Essentially, every square inch of space in the corridor, considering the width of vehicles and equipment in the areas it would be unsafe to have the road open.

Councilman Grady asked what the dimensions would be on the 'MichiganLeft" and how that would work.

Kimley-Horn Engineer Andrew Baird responded that the dimensions would be determined in the final design, but stated that it would allow for a truck with a trailer to move through. There is space within city right-of-way, and would reduce the need to go up to the Phippen roundabout.

Mayor Pro Tem Fruhwirth asked if this would fix the issue with not being able to turn left out of the flume trail.

Mr. Baird confirmed.

Councilman Grady asked how much the roundabouts cost based on the cost difference between Alternatives 2A and 2B.

Mr. Baird responded that additional pavement and curb is the additional cost in Alternative 2A.

Councilman Gambogi commented on his concern with accelerating and decelerating in Alternative 2C.

Mr. Baird agreed and stated that is why it is ranked #15; it will work, but it isn't ideal.

<u>Alternatives 3B and 5B - Widening Options:</u>
* Alternative 3B (Ranked #1)
  - $36.69 million
  - 5-lane widening between Phippen Trail roundabout and Willow Lake Road roundabout
  - Two 2-lane roundabouts within the corridor
  - Right-outs within 1500 feet of roundabouts
* Alternative 5B (Ranked #2)
  - $35.5 million
  - 5-lane widening between Phippen Trail roundabout and Boulder Creek Lane
  - 4-lane widening between Boulder Creek Lane and Twisted Trail with barrier (in narrows)
  - 5-lane widening between Twisted Trail and Willow Lake roundabout
  - Two 2-lane roundabouts within corridor
  - Right-outs within 1,500 feet of roundabout

<u>Funding Options:</u>
* Alternative 2A - total construction estimate $25.03 million
  - Wastewater: $12.41 million
  - Roadway: $12.62 million
* Alternative 2B - total construction estimate $25.24 million
  - Wastewater: $12.41 million
  - Roadway: $12.83 million
* Alternative 2C - total construction estimate $24.85 million
  - Wastewater: $12.41 million
  - Roadway: $12.44 million
* Alternative 3B - total construction estimate $36.69 million
  - Wastewater: $11.74 million

- Roadway: $24.95 million
* Alternative 5B - total construction estimate $35.55 million
    - Wastewater: $11.83 million
    - Roadway: $23.75 million

Funding Sources:
* Wastewater Rates
    - Alternative 2A $18.91 million
    - Alternative 2B $18.79 million
    - Alternative 2C $18.87 million
    - Alternative 3B $17.45 million
    - Alternative 5B $17.2 million
* Wastewater Impact Fee
    - Alternative 2A $4.73 million
    - Alternative 2B $4.74 million
    - Alternative 2C $4.72 million
    - Alternative 3B $4.36 million
    - Alternative 5B $4.29 million
* Street 1% Sales Tax
    - Alternative 2A $1.39 million
    - Alternative2B $1.53 million
    - Alternative 2C $1.26 million
    - Alternative 3B $10.42 million
    - Alternative 5B $9.84 million
* Street Impact Fees
    - Alternative 2A $0
    - Alternative 2B $0
    - Alternative 2C $0
    - Alternative 3B $4.64 million
    - Alternative 5B $4.22 million

Mayor Rusing commented that she finds it hard to believe that Alternatives 3B and 5B are not that much more costly than the alternatives. She also asked about the contract amendments.

Ms. Rowitsch responded that the narrowest portion of the road is significantly less than the rest of the roadway, so the calculations provided by the Mayor are off just a bit and that is why the differential in cost is not more significant.

Mr. Baird responded that the total rock removal is 21,000 cubic yards of rock. Kimley-Horn built in a cushion for the estimated amount provided by the rock expert (the removal totals include native rock and previously disturbed rock), and added that this contract amendment will take the design to 100% in the end with milestones built in, which is typical.

Mayor Pro Tem Fruhwirth asked about funding assistance from CYMPO.

Ms. Rowitsch responded that there are two City of Prescott projects at the top of their funding request list, one of which is SR89 widening, and if approved by ADOT it will come to the city for this project.

Mayor Rusing asked about funding from the County.

Ms. Rowitsch stated that they are waiting for the Council to make a decision to determine which option they want.

Construction Constraints:
* Alternatives with non-widening (2A, 2B and 2C)
    - 12-14 months with full closure of narrows for 3.5- 5 months
* Alternatives with widening (3B or 5B)
    - 18 months with single lane likely through construciton/possibility of two-way traffic possible throughout most of construction
* Do not typically recommend night work when there are residents involved, so would need to have more conversation about night work before a decision is made on that; there is also additional cost associated with that and it is not as productive as day work.

Ms. Rowitsch stated that the item is approval of the design contract and selection of the design alternative which will determine the cost of the contract:
* Alternative 2A - $2,073,141
* Alternative 2B - $2,112,611
* Alternative 2C - $2,033,131
* Alternative 3B - $2,472,448
* Alternative 5B - $2,463,848

This is a wastewater improvement project that must be done, but a determination has to be made on the road as well in order to move forward.

Mayor Rusing stated that she thinks the item should be tabled until Councilman Garing can participate in the meeting.

Councilman Ruby stated that he appreciates all the work done by staff and the information provided, but he feels there are options missing, like potentially moving the pipeline under the Peavine Trail.

Councilwoman Frederickson commented that the Council should vote on this tonight.

Mayor Pro Tem Fruhwirth stated that she has been struggling to try and explain the total economic impact to the public. She is struggling with what portions of the community wants. Costs are rising and that is reality. There is no choice but to invest in this system and there are legal obligations.

Councilman Grady agreed that this is a difficult process, and he doesn't know how to put out costs on protecting this iconic piece of the Prescott community and he is concerned with the financial costs. Mr. Garing should be here to have a say.

Councilman Gambogi commented that staff are the subject-matter experts on this project. He asked staff to address past issues with the pipes, and for clarification that if the Council were to choose the non-widening option when would the project be done and when would the future widening of the road need to be done. From his perspective, it is more prudent to widen now.

Ms. Rowitsch stated that there have been several issues, but last December there was a catastrophic failure which also impacted the roadway and there was a full closure for 10 days. There were significant impacts to traffic, particularly on Willow Creek Road because of that. She added that the project would be done in 2028 and they anticipate that the it would be 6-years before the road fails, and it would need to be worked on again. Prices would likely be higher than now, and the road would be updated premature to its expected lifespan of 20-30 years.

Mr. Baird added that there are 22,000 typically vehicles per day on Hwy89 and 25,000 on Willow Creek Road. During the closure there were an additional 11,000 vehicles utilizing Willow Creek Road, and an additional 5,000 vehicles on Williamson Valley. During the detour, peak travel times were 6 times longer than normal.

Recess at 5:37 p.m., reconvene at 5:48 p.m.

Member of the public Erik Ludwig addressed the Council who lives directly adjacent to this roadway. This is an infrastructure project, and they are attempting to make it about safety. If the goal is safety, reduce the speed and enforce it. He urged the Council to collect more traffic data. For the people living in the corridor, a right-turn only option would add up to 42 hours per year of additional time for his family.

Member of the public Terry Sapio addressed the Council and commented that this is not rushed; the Council has been hearing from the public for over a year. What this really boils down to a math problem because eventually the road will be widened and tearing and rebuilding the road twice will cost much more than doing it once.

Member of the public Steve Blair addressed the Council as a lifetime Prescottonian who has experienced a lot of road projects in this community. Many experienced professionals have looked to the future to plan roads for this area. Fain Road, Pioneer Park, Outer Loop Road, Prescott Lakes Parkway, Commerce Road, and connectors like Rosser wouldn't exist. It is imperative to think of the future of North Prescott. This will improve life for everyone.

Member of the public Bonnie McMinn addressed the Council regarding good governance. There are two compliance issues that the city needs to address. Regardless of whether the road widening occurs, the main line needs to be replaced because of that. She added that option 2C is a completely new option that has never been discussed or seen before.

Member of the public Malcom Barrett addressed the Council and thanked them for listening. This is all about public safety. In every long-range planning session he has been a part of for many years, Hwy89 has been a topic of discussion. This will only impact less than one of half of one percent of the granite in the

Dells. This is a regional transportation issue.

Member of the public Mark Dienpski addressed the Council as a former public works employee for the City of Prescott. ADOT funded the improvements of Hwy89 many years ago. This area will remain important and scenic even with improvements. He reviewed the many projects that required advanced planning for roadway improvements, infrastructure and safety which have all met with public opposition, and we are certainly all thankful now that they were approved. To not widen would be illogical and unacceptable.

Member of the public Damon Meyers addressed the Council as a resident of Granite Dells. He understands the different arguments. He agreed with Bonnie McMinn that so much information is just coming to them, he would recommend a conservative option but asked if alternatives have been considered for alternative utility locations.

Member of the public Michael Marchand addressed the Council. He discussed Resolution No. 2024-1876. He stated that 86% of the public wants to preserve the scenic roadway. This is a utility project and not a road improvement project. Alternative Option 2A and 2B are the same when you take out the roundabouts. He encouraged the Council to have a third party look at the design proposals and costs.

Member of the public Randy Ratliff addressed the Council regarding Granite Gate Senior Living in the surrounding area with elderly residents and 55-full time employees the echoing in the canyon with night work would be detrimental to them. He encouraged the Council to think of everyone and spend the taxpayers' money wisely.

Member of the public Steve Sischka addressed the Council and said if there were no politics, people could get so much done. Decisions could be made on what is good for the City of Prescott as a whole. That is the Council's real responsibility. This issue has been studied and talked about for as long as he can remember. Further, doing so is a delay tactic. The buck stops with this Council, and they need to prioritize long-term gain over short-term politics. Widening now means one and done, not doing the work and experiencing closures twice.

Member of the public Rod Moyer addressed the Council stating that the math doesn't tell the Council that the road will have to be widened at some point in the future. All the new developments to the north of Prescott will have commercial services and don't need to come down Hwy89 anymore, they aren't coming into Prescott to work, they are coming in to shop. He echoed support for waiting for Councilman Garing to be present. He is an experienced engineer.

Member of the public Michael Coffey addressed the Council regarding the safety of Hwy89 through the Dells, and everyone has an opinion on that. He asked if this road routinely makes the top 10 lists for safety, and stated that it is not. Kimley-Horn has presented detailed crash data, and facts seem to indicate that it is riskier to get through the roundabouts than in the area in between. Distracted driving is not cured with additional lanes.

Member of the public Sandy Griffis addressed the Council regarding this issue that has been discussed for three years and has been long anticipated. This is a critically important project and not just about roadway and pipes, it is about safety/transportation/school buses/visitors/residents. The primary driver is the sewer infrastructure. She is a strong supporter of Alternative 3B, cannot step over a dollar to pick up a dime.

Member of the public Katherine Wyly addressed the Council as a resident of Granite Gardens who uses Granite Dells Road every day. She has seen a lot of change in Prescott over the years; Granite Dells is the most iconic part of Prescott. They are county residents but pay for city services. She supports Alternative 2C that is the most conservative and protects the areas surrounding the roadway. She suggested a smart light as a least disruptive option to just fix the sewer line, wants to see the tourists benefit with the most minimal impact on the residents.

Member of the public Ken Fidyk addressed the Council regarding the importance of safety. He suggested picking one of the plans presented by Kimley-Horn. There are people on both sides of this and isn't a scenario when everyone will be happy. He expressed his concern regarding cost overruns and the project being on time. The Council should have 5 votes in favor of this decision.

Member of the public Steven Munsell addressed the Council thanking them for all they do. He has been a resident of Prescott since the mid 1970s and has watched the growth and traffic over the years. He is empathetic to the residents in that area with regard to night work and asked if there is a plan for where the rocks will go. The study hasn't been very comprehensive in his opinion. Less is more, the widening should wait.

Member of the public Truly Bracken addressed the Council regarding the adopted Resolution calling for structured public engagement and adding a new option does not follow that process. When this happens, public trust erodes.

Member of the public Stacey Brown addressed the Council, governing is difficult because it requires compromise and trade-offs. She doesn't have an opinion regarding which option they select, but she wants to ensure that it is the best path forward. This shouldn't be a campaign promise, it should be leading with fiscal responsibility and what is best for the community.

Member of the public Richard Thompson addressed the Council stating that he is opposed to widening Hwy89, and he is not alone in that sentiment. Overwhelmingly, people do not want to widen the Dells. The figures provided in the presentation don't add up; this is too big a decision right now.

Member of the public Linda Thompson addressed the Council and stated that for the last 10 years, every time she has driven through the Dells it is fine and there is no safety problem. If this road is widened it will be a self-fulfilling prophecy and the Council should go with option 2C.

Member of the public Tom Staley addressed the Council stating that this is a no-brainier; it is safety it is the sewer line. This line has been kicked down the road so many times, and the road is going to get torn up regardless. Should be voted on tonight.

Member of the public Don Biele addressed the Council regarding logic and common sense. This situation seems to have a lot of debate and consternation. The fact is that occasionally you're going to have to hug a tree or remove a rock. If the money is going to be spent on the utility which it has to be, the widening should be done as well.

Member of the public Mike Fann addressed the Council and thanked them for their service to the community. This is a tough decision. He spoke as a contractor and a resident of this community since 1958. He has worked in this corridor many times over the years. There will be more lanes coming into the Phippen roundabout in the immediate future, funneling into one lane and that is a safety concern. Cannot replace the utilities and keep that road open, it will have to be shut down which will impact businesses for months. Widening in the future will lose all curb/gutter and asphalt, which means the road will have to be built twice. The lines are not designed to handle the weight of future road construction, it will take life out or cause new leaks with the rock removal. There are natural fissures in the rock that can be made to look native, improvements could make it look better than it does today when the road was put in the first time contractors did not have the tools they do today.

Member of the public Gregory Allen addressed the Council regarding Willow Creek Road. Over the years there has been a lot of traffic and impact problems in that area. Alternative 3B is what needs to be done. Prices will double in 8 years when the road is widened if the Council doesn't do it now, and it will make this a wasted project.

Member of the public Michael Bacon addressed the Council as a former City of Prescott employee in Planning. There has been a lot of growth and change over the years in Prescott. There is no planning for another north-south connection. There are economic, social and other consequences if this road is not widened, even if nobody wants to see that done. Looking at simple logistics here, he is sorry to hear the debate over this.

MOTION BY MAYOR RUSING TO CONTINUE ACTION ON THIS ITEM UNTIL FEBRUARY 24, 2026; SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN GRADY: PASSED (5 - 1) COUNCILMAN GAMBOGI DISSENTING

Mayor Pro Tem Fruhwirth stated that there needs to be direction for staff.

Councilman Gambogi commented that we have a quorum of six we don’t need to wait for Garing. We already know his proposal to slip line which is a proven mistake.

Councilman Gambogi left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Fruhwirth stated that she would like to see numbers at the February 24, 2026 Meeting as follows: 1) when will the city hit service level F on each alternative option; 2) what is the impact of the total cost (didn't consider the future damage to the pipes underneath); and 3) inflation rates over the course of time between paying for something now versus later. She wants a good return on investment rate.

Councilman Ruby commented that the most pertinent thing he heard was how the problem is defined: Traffic is a significant problem in Prescott. There is value in the scenic heritage and the Dells. He would like to see an expressway option between the Zoo and tractor place that weaves into Watson Woods behind the substation, and if the cost of something like that is justifiable.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Rusing adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Cathey Rusing

CATHEY RUSING, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sarah M. Thornhill

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 February 10, 2026. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Sarah M. Thornhill

Sarah M. Thornhill, City Clerk