City of Prescott

City Council - Voting Meeting

August 25, 2026 | 3:00 PM
201 N Montezuma Street
Council Chambers, 1st Floor
Prescott, AZ 86301

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rusing called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. INTRODUCTIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Fruhwirth reminded the public about a number of upcoming events for the remainder of August and early September, as well as Labor Day closures and schedule changes for city offices, the Prescott Public Library, Transfer Station and trash collection. She also shared that during the month of September the Recreation Services Department will be joining parks and communities throughout the country in a fun challenge to see how many pollinator species can be documented. For more information, contact Recreation Services at 928-777-1121. Finally, Mayor Pro Tem Fruhwirth stated that the city is now accepting entries for this year’s Veterans Day Parade. This year's theme is "Remember the Past, Serve the Present, Inspire the Future" and individuals, businesses and community groups are invited to participate and submit their entry form by October 21st. Please contact Michelle Stacy-Schroeder at 928-777-1121 x4501 if you have any questions.

Mayor Rusing opened a Moment of Silence for city employee Scott McClinton who passed away over the weekend.

4. INVOCATION - Pastor Lance Duffield with Restoration Church

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Councilwoman Frederickson

6. PRESENTATIONS

A. Presentation from Vitalant Blood Donations Regarding the Upcoming "Battle of the Badges" Blood Drive

Jim Gilloon provided a presentation to the Council regarding the June 26-27 event in honor of Sgt Rick Lopez. There will be another event in December.

7. OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

A. Carter LeBarge addressed the Council regarding the doubled population over the last 20-years, he spoke about how much city staff there is and how hyper-focused the Department Heads are on specific portions of projects. He doesn't feel that anyone is involved in a project from "cradle to the grave". His issue is that there are consultants hired for all projects. The City Manager should hire staff that is capable of doing their own work.

B. Michael Marchand addressed the Council regarding eye-on-water and asked what took the Council so long to use this tool and what percent of the community have signed up for the service and what the savings is as a result.

C. Deb Thalasitis addressed the Council regarding a May presentation from Terracon Consultants and their Facility Assessment Report which was being worked into the budget. She submitted a PRR on August 11 and received notice that the report is still in draft format. She believes this is an oversight and should get the report.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION BY COUNCILMAN GAMBOGI TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 8.B. AND 8.C.; SECONDED BY MAYOR RUSING: PASSED (7 - 0)

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes from the August 11, 2026 Executive Session, the August 11, 2026 Study Session and the August 11, 2026 Voting Meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Fruhwirth pulled this item from Consent for further discussion. She stated that a Councilmember requested that one specific letter received be included in the minutes and based on the amount of correspondence they get they shouldn't get only one included.

Mayor Rusing stated that she is for public input but felt this showed favoritism toward one person, and that either all letters should be included in the official records or none of them should be and regardless the Council needs to develop a policy.

Mayor Pro Tem Fruhwirth added that she spoke with the City Attorney and the City Clerk regarding an addition to Council Rules of Procedure related to this as well.

MOTION BY MAYOR PRO TEM FRUHWIRTH TO APPROVE ITEM 8.A. WITHOUT THE INCLUSION OF THE LETTER; SECONDED BY MAYOR RUSING: PASSED (6 - 1) COUNCILMAN GAMBOGI DISSENTING

B. Approval of City Contract No. 2022-168A32, an Amendment to City Contract No. 2022-168 with Dibble & Associates Consulting Engineers, Inc. for Planning Services Associated with an Advanced Runway Length Analysis at Prescott Regional Airport – Ernest A. Love Field in an Amount not to Exceed

$110,384.10. Grant Funding is Available and Local Match has Been Budgeted in the Airport Fund.

C. Approval of Acceptance & Expenditure of Grant Funds from the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) and the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) as Follows: 1) $45,000 in AZDOHS Funding for Street Bollards; 2) $5,090 in AZDOHS Funding for Threat Liaison Officer (TLO) Training; and 3) $15,928 in JAG Funding for Less-lethal Equipment.

9. CONSENT ORDINANCE

MOTION BY COUNCILMAN GAMBOGI TO ADOPT CONSENT ORDINANCE ITEMS 9.A. THROUGH 9.D.; SECONDED BY MAYOR RUSING: PASSED (7 - 0)

A. Adoption of Ordinance No. 2026-1953 Authorizing the Purchase of Two Land Parcels and One (1) Sewer Easement.

B. Adoption of Ordinance No. 2026-1954 Authorizing the Acceptance of Three (3) Public Sewer Easements.

C. Adoption of Ordinance No. 2026-1955 Authorizing the Acceptance of Seven (7) Public Water Line Easements.

D. Adoption of Ordinance No. 2026-1956 Authorizing the Acceptance of One (1) Public Water Line Easement.

E. Adoption of Multiple Ordinances Related to City Court Fees as Follows: 1) Ordinance No. 2026-1957 Approving Amendments to Prescott City Code Section 2-7-8; and 2) Ordinance No. 2026-1958 Approving Amendments to Prescott City Code Section 2-7-7.

Mayor Pro Tem Fruhwirth asked the City Judge to address a mathematical error she noted in the calculations for one of the fees.

City Judge Patrick Gann addressed an error in the decimal on a surcharge. He also reviewed what the charges will help to cover and reiterated that they will only be charged to defendants that are found guilty.

MOTION BY MAYOR PRO TEM FRUHWIRTH TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NOS. 2026-1957 & 2026-1958; SECONDED BY MAYOR RUSING: PASSED (7 - 0)

10. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Presentation, Discussion & Public Hearing Regarding the CDBG Program Year 2025 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER).

Grants Administrator Michael McInnes provided a presentation to the Council regarding the PY25 CAPER, which is a HUD document. He recognized the CDBG Citizens Advisory Committee members who work hard on this project every year.

What the Report Does:
* Reports to HUD
* Tracks Progress
* Confirms Compliance
* Informs the Public

PY25 Accomplishments:
* $467,635 in CDBG and CDBG-CV funds invested in the community
* People Who Care served 273 residents
* New Horizons transported fifty-nine low to moderate income residents to medical appointments
* Wrapped in Love Diaper Bank distributed 211,0000 diapers and incontinence Items
* Prescott Cares Phase II provided rental assistance to 24 low-income households
* USVets Officer Quarters Residents completed 23 units
* Agape House Transitional Housing renovated completed
* Prescott Community Cupboard Renovation completed

A representative from the Community Cupboard addressed the Council regarding the food bank services and the importance of the renovation in serving the community. He thanked the Council for supporting these projects.

Councilman Ruby stated that he has been following the Committee and acknowledged the work they do. There is a lot of need in the community and not everyone can be helped so it is hard work.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER RUBY TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING; SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM FRUHWIRTH: PASSED (7 - 0)

B. Adoption of Ordinance No. 2026-1959, Amending Title VII, Chapter 7-4-25 Municipal Solid Waste Fees & Adding a Severance Clause; and Adoption of Resolution No. 2026-2000 Declaring Chapter 7-4, Section 25 Entitled "Solid Waste Management" and the Attachment Exhibit Entitled "Exhibit A" Attached Thereto as a Public Record.

Deputy Finance Director Emily Shy provided a presentation to the Council regarding the Solid Waste Rate Adjustment Proposal. She reviewed the rates which will become effective on October 1, 2026.

Council Direction Internal Study - Rates Adjusted ASAP:
* Refine Scenario 2 rates and calculate for other ancillary rates
* Issue a 60-day notice with internal fee study documentation by June 26, 2026
* Council consideration on August 25, 2026
* Rates effective October 1, 2026
* Continue with consultant-led rate study following fee adoption to identify future

rate increases and timing, service delivery policy decisions and timing flexibility

<u>Council Direction Consultant-led Rate Study (Rates Adjusted Spring 2027 or After):</u>
* Full consultant study including service delivery analysis and review of self-hauling impacts
* More compressed schedule but provides deeper evaluation of services and costs, adoption of at least a three-year rate schedule

<u>Why is this needed:</u>
* Increasing operational costs
* Insufficient cash flow to fully fund vehicle replacements has required borrowing, increasing debt service payment and operating costs
* Current revenues are not sufficient to cover ongoing expenditures, resulting in negative operating results under existing rates which first occurred in FY25
* FY26 estimated operating deficit is $929,120

Mayor Rusing asked what would happen if the rates are not approved and Council waits for the comprehensive results from the consultant. The options at this point seem to be cutting services or increasing fees, but she doesn't feel that this has been studied for long enough.

Ms. Shy responded that the deficit would continue, and it would take longer to pay off.

Mayor Pro Tem Fruhwirth echoed Mayor Rusing's comments, the Council has received feedback from the community very concerned about such significant increases. This is the first community she has ever lived in where the city is responsible for hauling trash, and she is curious if outsourcing this would be a better option for the community. She is nervous to approve this now, and thinks the scope of the work of the consultant should be revamped.

Councilman Gambogi commented that Public Works has done the calculation to see what it will take to break even, Prescott doesn't even charge as much as some other communities. He doesn't think the city even needs a study, because they are just going to say that services should be cut, and the city isn't going to do that.

Councilman Ruby stated that he doesn't want to see the deficit grow.

Councilman Grady agreed, it is important to take action today. He did ask about increased costs for fuel, hauling etc.

Ms. Shy responded that there are a limited number of vendors and many of those costs are out of the city's control. GFOA standard is 45 days of operating expenses covered, and the city is behind the industry standard at this point.

Field Operations Manager Brady Higgs added that hauling expenses will be ending in March 2027 for the initial term, and there are extensions built in which allow for CPI and fuel adjustments which are reviewed twice a year.

Councilman Garing stated that this is an enterprise fund that needs to be balanced. The longer the Council waits, the greater the increase will be. He supports Scenario 2.

Councilman Ruby asked if there are ways for the department to run more efficiently.

Ms. Shy responded that they have looked at all the options and this is the recommended scenario.

Mayor Pro Tem Fruhwirth asked if it would be possible to hold off on some of the vehicle replacements in order to decrease the fee changes.

Mr. Higgs responded that vehicle purchases are $450,000 of the total budget, and he added that the city has been running vehicles for 10-15 years when the industry standard is seven years and many of the purchases have already been pushed from previous years. The vehicle purchases are a necessary expense, but if the desire of the Council is to wait on doing so then staff can look at that option.

Councilwoman Frederickson stated that she is on board with Scenario 2 and echoed comments about the enterprise fund not operating in a deficit. This is what our service costs.

Councilman Gambogi asked how many years the city has been losing money with this.

Ms. Shy responded that it began in FY25.

Member of the public Ken Fidyk addressed the Council and asked why they city doesn't charge for hazardous waste or Christmas tree pickup because charging for that would help to offset the costs to operate the department. Staff should just get a quote from Waste Management to see what the costs would be for their services.

MOTION BY COUNCILMAN GAMBOGI TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2026-1959 & RESOLUTION NO. 2026-2000; SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN RUBY: PASSED (6 - 1) MAYOR PRO TEM FRUHWIRTH DISSENTING

C. Approval of City Contract No. 2027-052, with Burns and McDonnell to Conduct a Comprehensive Solid Waste Rate Analysis, in the amount of $93,900.00. Funding is Budgeted & Available in the Solid Waste Fund.

Field Operations Manager Brady Higgs provided a presentation to the Council regarding the proposed contract. Following a May Study Session, Council directed staff to continue with a consultant lead rate study for full overview of the fee structure beyond what has already been approved by the Council and develop a five-year planning structure for all services. Expected completion is Spring 2027, and a report will come back to the Council following that.

Policy Decisions That Will Be Evaluated:
* Evaluate cost versus recover under long-standing IGA
* Analyze operational impact and define tipping fee structure
* Service level review - residential, commercial, transfer station
* Core additional services review - Christmas tree, household hazardous waste, bulk and brush pickup

Mayor Pro Tem Fruhwirth commented that she appreciated staff was taking a look at alternative hauling options, but asked if the city would seriously look at outsourcing.

Mr. Higgs responded that the rates are being prepared, but actually going through with a change is not being considered at this point.

City Manager Dallin Kimble added that the conversation can be had when the Council reviews all the information provided as a result of the study. If the Council determines the rates look better outsourced, they would need to determine at that time if the city should go out to bid to assign that.

Councilman Ruby asked if there was a reason why city staff could not do the fee study themselves.

Mr. Higgs stated that there is a certain standard outside looking beyond just the surrounding areas that this company would be able to provide because they have worked nationally at communities facing similar situations. City staff isn't incapable of looking at numbers and working with finance to have options, but there is value is having an outside wholistic point of view.

Mayor Rusing asked if it would be possible to ask the consultant to revise the scope of services.

Mr. Higgs said staff can certainly ask.

Councilman Gambogi commented that he does find some truth in the statement about always going to a consultant. He thinks staff understands the needs of the city and can evaluate these things appropriately.

Mayor Rusing commented that perhaps just consolidating services would be an appropriate solution and a consultant doesn't need to be hired. The city needs to be kept clean and that includes the forest.

Councilman Ruby asked if there is capacity for the staff to do this evaluation.

Mr. Higgs responded that staff could certainly look into that as an option if the Council provides that direction, but it will take significant staff hours.

Mayor Rusing stated that she received a letter from a citizen opposed to the rate increase.

MOTION BY COUNCILMAN GAMBOGI TO DENY CITY CONTRACT NO.

2027-052. MOTION DIED DUE TO LACK OF A SECOND.

MOTION BY MAYOR PRO TEM FRUHWIRTH TO APPROVE CITY CONTRACT NO. 2027-052; SECONDED BY MAYOR RUSING: PASSED (6 - 1) COUNCILMAN GAMBOGI DISSENTING

D. Approval of City Contract No. 2024-204A2, an Amendment to City Contract No. 2024-204 with City of Phoenix to Receive & Process Recyclable Materials Collected by the City of Prescott. Funding is Budgeted & Available in the Solid Waste Fund.

Field Operations Manager Brady Higgs provided a presentation to the Council regarding the contract which was approved in the AEL during the budget process. For the past ten years, the city has contracted with the City of Phoenix on a price per ton processing fee.

Mayor Rusing stated that this contract costs the city $30,000/month yet much of the recyclables are denied because they have to be "clean". She feels that the citizens need to be re-educated so they understand what can and cannot be recycled. There is a 30-day cancellation notice, but thinks the contract should be approved now until the consultant can review the process.

Councilman Ruby asked if the offsets of costs have ever been a net positive for the city.

Mr. Higgs responded that it hasn't happened since FY23 when the city received revenue from the City of Phoenix.

Councilwoman Frederickson asked if there is any change when recyclables may have more value.

Mr. Higgs responded that the market fluctuates, but on an average year it is cheaper to do things this way than hauling to a landfill, however, there is still a cost associated. In FY26 processing fees were $181,000.

MOTION BY COUNCILMAN GAMBOGI TO APPROVE CITY CONTRACT NO. 2024-204A2; SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM FRUHWIRTH: PASSED (7 - 0)

E. Approval of City Contract No. 2027-044, with Fann Contracting for Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) Pre-Construction Services for the Effluent and Wastewater Pipelines & SR89 Improvements Project in the Amount of $358,208.00. Funding is Budgeted & Available in the Wastewater and Street Funds.

Council recessed at 4:52 p.m. and reconvened at 5:05 p.m.

Capital Program Manager Tim Sherwood provided a presentation to the Council regarding the proposed contract, which is part of the centralization effort and traffic improvements along SR89. Fann Contracting was ranked as the top firm for the SROQ, they will help bridge the gap between the design and construction and will be on board for the project from start to finish. The anticipated start of construction will be in the Spring of next year.

Mayor Rusing stated that improvements in this area have been a long time coming, and she asked if legal negotiated the contract.

City Attorney Joseph Young stated that he does not negotiate contracts, that is done through the Public Works department and legal reviews.

Mr. Sherwood confirmed and stated that there is generally back and forth between the city and the contractors.

Mayor Rusing expressed her concern that there is not an exhibit in the contract with the Kimley-Horn selected design option, and she thinks that needs to be included.

Mr. Sherwood stated that the CMAR is not doing any of the design, they are evaluating the work that the design team does in conjunction with the designer and city staff.

Councilman Garing commented that he has been told there are differences in the request for proposal and the contract. Specifically, he asked about traffic control and traffic planning.

Mr. Sherwood stated that is why the CMAR is on board and is part of the contract.

Councilwoman Frederickson stated that she noted an exclusions list in the contract which has traffic control and plans.

Mr. Sherwood stated they will not be providing traffic control during design and pre-construction but will be during construction. There are options to enter into additional GMPs if needed to procure items.

Mayor Rusing stated that there are 18 exclusions including design and engineering services and stated that she wants the insurance umbrella changed to a "must" versus "may".

Mr. Sherwood reiterated that Kimley-Horn is providing the design and engineering services, and this agreement is for Construction Manager at Risk pre-construction services.

Mr. Young stated that insurance is required and $3 million is the usual amount, and reiterated that this agreement doesn't deal with construction services. He added that this is the city's form contract.

Councilman Gambogi stated that they are not going into construction, they are just reviewing design.

Mr. Young added that liability with the agreement is limited because if there is an issue with the design that would be the design firm's liability and not Fann’s.

Member of the public Carter LeBarge addressed the Council and stated that failures along these lines have been the result of previous construction, backfill, etc. He requested that the Council pause this contract and stated that contractors should not receive repeat contracts.

Member of the public Michael Marchand addressed the Council regarding his comparisons of the RSOQ with the roadway requirements and stated that he doesn't believe they match up. He believes there is a lack of quality assurance within this department and that is concerning.

Member of the public Bonnie McMinn addressed the Council regarding the February 2026 vote of the Council for the design and May contract with Kimley-Horn to complete the design. She stated that her comments are not in objection to the CMAR itself, because it can help save money. However, with the fact that the option selected is not specifically noted in the contract. The Council must exert their oversight authority and bring this contract back, and it needs to be done right.

Mayor Rusing asked about "shading" and the many water main breaks over the years that were PVC pipes. She encouraged the city to make sure that work is done properly and inspecting to make sure that work is done to city standards.

Councilman Grady asked if staff has seen the document that was just handed out by Mr. Marchand.

Mr. Sherwood responded that they have not, however, he said that staff could review it and return to Council. Fann will be working with the design engineer, but they are not providing any design services and so the stipulations for that do not apply to this contract.

Councilman Ruby asked how long it would take to integrate all the elements into the contract that had been brought up and expressed his concern that the Council was getting lost between the design phase and the next phase.

Mr. Sherwood responded that he would have to speak with Finance and Legal about that, but he can assure staff that they were working on the correct design.

Councilman Garing stated that he thinks this contract should be delayed.

Mayor Pro Tem Fruhwirth echoed Councilman Garing's comments.

Councilman Gambogi stated that the Council can't seem to move forward, so he is comfortable postponing.

Councilman Grady stated that he would vote for this contract but would like more clarity on the elements of Mr. Marchand's handout and making sure that there is a clear definition as to what the Council is agreeing to.

MOTION BY MAYOR RUSING TO POSTPONE APPROVAL OF CITY CONTRACT NO. 2027-044 TO THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING; SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN GAMBOGI: PASSED (7 - 0)

F. **Rodeo Master Plan:** Presentation & Discussion Regarding Public Hearing #1 in Accordance with Resolution No. 2023-1862 & Resolution No. 2026-1997 for a Public Hearing and Presentation with an Update on the Rodeo Master Plan.
Councilman Gambogi left the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Robert Wadsack and Kala Ade with GH2 Architects provided a presentation and update regarding the Rodeo Grounds and Fairgrounds Masterplan.

Mr. Wadsack reviewed the conceptual Master Plan full build-out design which was presented at the beginning of the month when the public comment period opened. He added that they will be making updates incorporating public comments that have been received. Improvements for the Rodeo, Auto Club facility and UofA Extension are not tied to each other and can be phased as appropriate.

Ms. Ade continued with a review of the one-story mutli-use pavilion, a restroom pavilion (two-stories), equipment barn, UofA cooperative extension/dedicated parking, composting facility, etc. She also reviewed a rendering of the proposed plan at full build out.

Next Steps:
* Implementing public feedback
* Updates to spectator and parking counts

Mayor Rusing asked if there was a plan for any seating above the bucking shoots.

Mr. Wadsack stated that feedback has been received and will be incorporated in the next draft of the plan.

Councilman Grady asked if there was a summary of the responses received at the last public meeting.

Mr. Wadsack responded that the public comment period goes through September 22 and will be incorporated and serve in lieu of the public survey.

Mayor Pro Tem asked if additional space for storage was being included, what the purpose is of the public park and if the Buckle Club would have their own space.

Mr. Wadsack responded that it is his understanding that, as leases are updated, storage will be incorporated. The park was a change from the neighborhood group to create more public space and is still to be determined on specifics. Any dedicated space for the Buckle Club will be up to the Rodeo, there is capacity so it will be a matter of layout.

City Manager Dallin Kimble added that Barn A, which is down by the cooperative extension, is also being looked at as a storage option.

Councilman Ruby said it is great to see this moving forward. He added that environmental remediation has been very important to people and asked if there has been any work done on that.

Mr. Wadsack responded that they have met with Public Works and discussed options for that. It is being looked at and, based on recommendations, there is an area set aside for a manure management system.

Public Works Director Gwen Rowitsch added that the environmental team is working on it and will integrate with the stormwater improvements for the site. Staff is looking at a variety of options, but no specific decisions have been made at this point.

Mr. Kimble added that part of the permitting process will involve Phase I environmental so that will be included on a project-by-project basis.

Mayor Rusing commented that for archeological the less disturbance the better, so she would prefer the method Mr. Kimble has outlined.

Mr. Kimble added that there could potentially be parts of the plan that are not completed for funding or other reasons.

Mayor Rusing commented that the $15 million from the state is just for the Rodeo.

Councilman Grady asked if there has been more investigation into the numbers for onsite seating and parking totals.

Mr. Wadsack responded that it has, and those figures are being updated, they are also looking at alternative parking plans which are also allowed under city code.

Councilman Ruby asked about where the IT staff will go.

Mr. Wadsack responded that it will depend on the full build out.

Member of the public Carter LeBarge addressed the Council regarding a requested structural engineering review of the stability of the grandstands, and stated that he sees nothing about that in the Master Plan. He discussed the contract with Ridgeline Builders for the replacement of the bleachers, and it seems they did not do a proper or complete job. He asked who was responsible for the management and inspections on this project.

Member of the public Levi Darby addressed the Council as a representative of the Yavapai County Fair stating that there is a lot of stuff that goes on at the Rodeo Grounds. He commented on the hard work that has gone into the Master Plan and yet nobody seems to be happy. Nobody comes because the site is new they come because it is historic. If people want something new they might as well blow it up and start over at a different spot. All of the events are getting bigger.

Member of the public Robin Woolsey addressed the Council as Director of the Prescott Antique Auto Club who has a separate lease with the city for their portion of the Rodeo Grounds. They are fine with what will be done at the Rodeo but they are concerned with the proposed ramp from the upper dirt area into their corner of the property because it is by where they store their antique fire truck. They would like to see the equipment barn shifted east.

Member of the public Cathy Messinger addressed the Council and asked that the transformation respects community guardrails, transparency and neighborhood considerations. Legally binding assurances must be put into place to make sure that taxpayer dollars are not applied if private funding fails. The final plan must evaluate traffic, stormwater runoff and manure management. Consider approval on formal financial indemnity clause and independent traffic/environmental impact study.

Member of the public Thomas Hillock addressed the Council and stated that the highlight of his summers before he lived in Prescott was coming to the Rodeo. When they moved here, he joined Prescott Frontier Days. He commented that there are 52 vendors for PFD and their goal is to make sure they are profitable, 60% are local but about 40% are from the Phoenix and Tucson area with some from out of state. There is a waiting list to become a vendor, people love coming here for the Rodeo and want to be a part of the event and important part of the community.

Member of the public Rex Hinshaw addressed the Council as VP of Prescott Frontier Days and member of the Steering Committee, stating that this process with GH2 has been productive, they have done a great job even when people don't agree. He believes the end result will be something that people can be proud of.

Member of the public Deb Thalasitis addressed the Council as a member of the Steering Committee and Prescott resident. She stated the plan that was just reviewed is an expansion plan and doesn't preserve the history of Prescott. The plan does not address structural issues. The Master Plan estimates don't include environmental remediations, traffic bollards, archeological review, IT location, and doesn't address visual inspections. Public dollars should not be spent so that a private organization can make more money. She doesn't support this plan and asked the Council to fix the existing problems.

Member of the public Sue Manuel addressed the Council stating that the Master Plan should not be adopted until lease agreements have been updated and approved and zoning updated. A single tenant should not serve as the primary planner, they are lessees. There must be guardrails incorporated into the lease agreements, when will this happen.

Member of the public Bonnie McMinn addressed the Council regarding the fact that the starting point for the Master Plan should be the number of people that the property serves. What gets built and how money is spent should be based on attendance. These issues need to be rectified. We've gone from 3,800 to 5,000 or more, and that is a significant change. The Council cannot continue acting on incomplete information.

Member of the public Tony Hamer addressed the Council regarding this ongoing fight. He commended GH2 on the great job they've done. The majority of the community recognizes the importance of the Rodeo, the land and the value of the brand for Prescott. However, the governance of the Rodeo Grounds/upkeep/maintenance/capital for the future should be part of considerations, and the $42 million price tag of this Master Plan isn't supposed to fall on the taxpayers, but that is a big barrier for the Rodeo.

Councilman Garing commented that the Prescott Pulse article from Friday should be reviewed. He also asked staff to address the seating contract.

Mr. Young stated that they do not match the city's requirements, and added that the project was not completed because the timing ran up against when the Rodeo began so there is still work to be done.

Councilman Garing added that there is reason to do a thorough structural analysis of the grandstands, particularly because there are additional bleachers that were not part of the original grandstands. If things need to be reinforced, now is the time to do so. He asked when the bleachers were approved and who did so and asked staff to address an environmental footprint that isn't being shown in the Master Plan.

Ms. Rowitsch responded that this is part of the public infrastructure that will be looked at with the stormwater plan. There is still much work to be done on that review though.

Councilman Garing continued with the deficiencies that are listed in draft proposal and stated that there has to be a way to mitigate dust, noise and traffic.

Mr. Young stated that public hearings must be closed by a motion and asked the Council to take action.

MOTION BY COUNCILMAN RUBY TO CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING #1; SECONDED BY MAYOR RUSING: PASSED (6 - 0) COUNCILMAN GAMBOGI WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Rusing adjourned the meeting at 7:02 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 August 25, 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